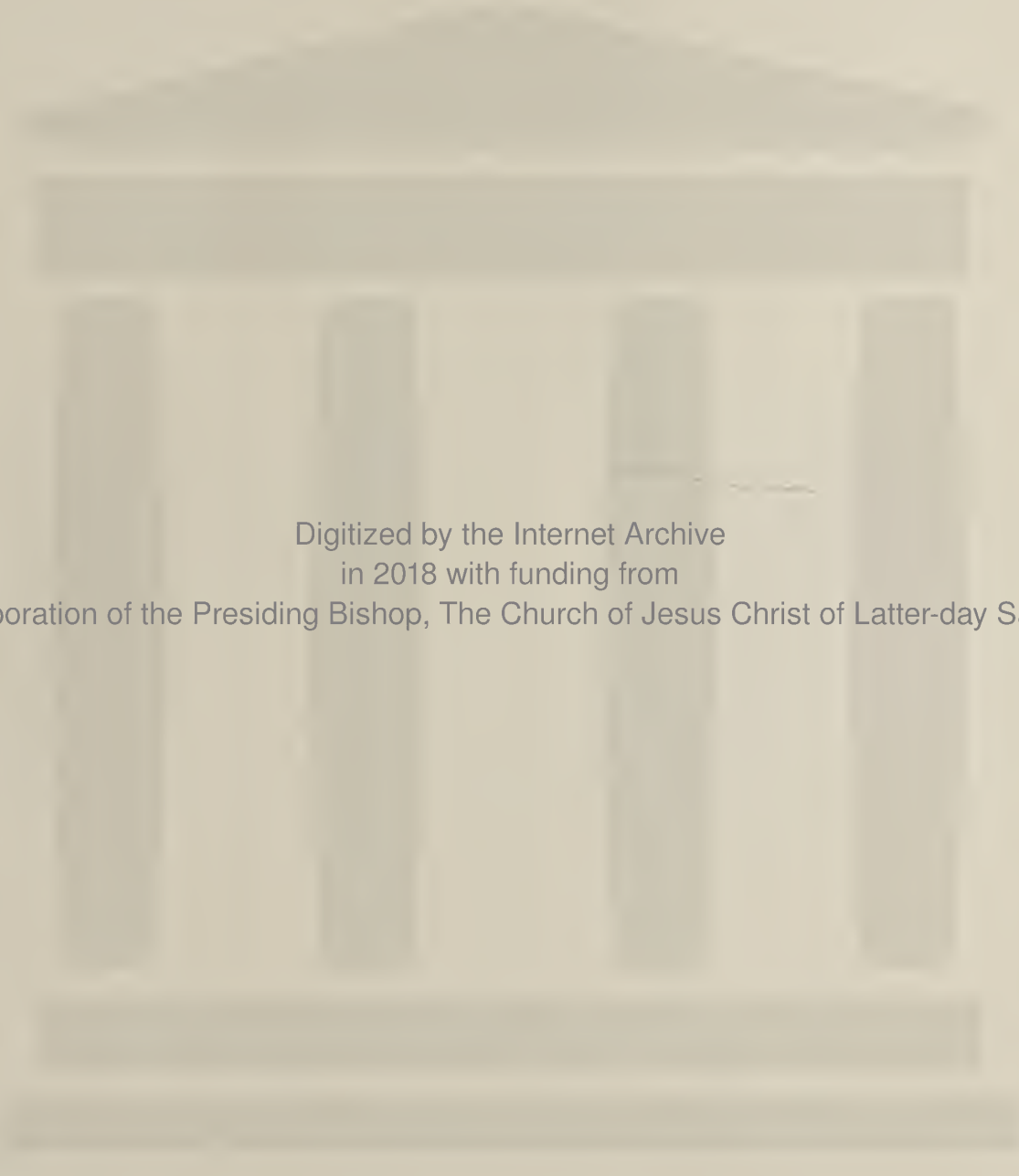


Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Corporation of the Presiding Bishop, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

https://archive.org/details/minnesotaresearc00chur

BC 560886

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

RESEARCH OUTLINE

Minnesota

This outline describes major sources of information about families from Minnesota. As you read this outline, study the *United States Research Outline* (30972), which will help you understand terminology and the contents and uses of genealogical records.

RECORDS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

Some of the sources described in this outline list the Family History Library's book, microfilm, microfiche, compact disc, and computer numbers. These are preceded by *FHL,* the abbreviation for *Family History Library*. These numbers may be used to locate materials in the Family History Library and to order microfilm and microfiche at Family History Centers.

You can use the computer number if you have access to the Family History Library Catalog on computer. The Computer Number Search is the fastest way to find a source in the catalog.

The computer Internet is growing in importance to genealogists. Sources found on the Internet are cited in this outline with their Universal Resource Locator (URL) address.

FAMILYSEARCH™

FamilySearch at Family History Centers. *FamilySearch* is a collection of computer files containing millions of names. *FamilySearch* is a good place to begin your family history research. Some of the records come from compiled sources, and some have been extracted from original sources. The Family History Library and many Family History Centers have computers with *FamilySearch*. A few *FamilySearch* resource files—for example, the *U.S. Social Security Death Index*, and the *U.S. Military Index*—are found on the Family History Library and Family History Center version of *FamilySearch*, but not on the FamilySearch™ Internet Genealogy Service.

Family History Library and Family History Center computers with *FamilySearch* do not have access to the Internet, computer on-line services, networks, or bulletin boards. Those services are available at many public libraries, college libraries, and private locations. Limited access to the Internet is available on a few computers in the Automated Resource Center in the Family History Library.

FamilySearch™ Internet Genealogy Service. The Internet site at www.familysearch.org allows you to preserve your genealogy, order Family History Library publications, learn research strategies, and look for information about your ancestors in the following resources:

Ancestral File, a file of over 35 million names organized into families and pedigrees.

International Genealogical Index, an index of over 600 million names extracted out of vital records primarily from the British Isles, North America, and northern Europe.

Family History Library Catalog, a description and classification of over 2 million microfilm reels, and hundreds of thousands of genealogical books. You can search the catalog by family name, locality, author, or book or film number.

SourceGuide, a resource that contains a collection of over 150 "how-to" research outlines for states, nations, or genealogy topics, an extensive glossary of word meanings, and a catalog helper.

Family History Centers, a list of locations where you can order the microfilms described in the Family History Library Catalog and *SourceGuide*.

Web Sites, a categorized list of thousands of links to Internet sites related to family history.

Collaboration Lists links you to user-created mailing lists of researchers interested in similar genealogical topics.

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG

The library's records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog available at the library and at each Family History Center, and on the Internet at: www.familysearch.org/Search/searchcatalog.asp. To find a record in the Family History Library Catalog, look in the Locality Search for:

US/CAN
REF AREA
973
D27u

- The *place* where your ancestor lived:

  UNITED STATES – CENSUS
  MINNESOTA – BIOGRAPHY
  MINNESOTA, RAMSEY – VITAL RECORDS
  MINNESOTA, HENNEPIN, MINNEAPOLIS – HISTORY

- The *record type* you want, such as:

  UNITED STATES – **CENSUS**
  MINNESOTA – **BIOGRAPHY**
  MINNESOTA, RAMSEY – **VITAL RECORDS**
  MINNESOTA, HENNEPIN, MINNEAPOLIS – **HISTORY**

The section headings in this outline match the names of record types (subject headings) used in the Family History Library Catalog.

RECORD SELECTION TABLE: MINNESOTA

This table can help you decide which records to search. It is most helpful for post–1850 research.

1. In column 1, find the category closest to your research goal.
2. In column 2, find the types of records most likely to have the information you need.
3. In column 3, find additional record types that may be useful.
4. Look in the section of this outline that corresponds to the record type you chose. It explains what the records might tell you, how to search them, and how to find the records in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog. Some records are not at the Library.

Note: Records of previous research—genealogy, biography, history, periodicals, and societies—are useful for most goals, but are not listed unless they are *especially* helpful.

1. If you need	2. Look first in	3. Then search
Adoptions	Court Records, Vital Records	Probate Records, Census
Age	Census, Vital Records, Obituaries	Cemeteries, Naturalization and Citizenship, Military Records
Birth date	Vital Records, Church Records, Cemeteries	Obituaries, Newspapers, Military Records, Naturalization and Citizenship
Birthplace	Vital Records, Church Records, Census	Obituaries, Biography, Military Records, Naturalization and Citizenship
Boundaries and origins	Maps, Gazetteers	History
Children	Census, Genealogy, Obituaries	Probate Records, History, Military Records
City or parish of foreign birth	Vital Records, Genealogy, Church Records	Naturalization and Citizenship, Obituaries, Biography
Country of foreign birth	Census, Naturalization and Citizenship, Emigration and Immigration	Vital Records, Obituaries, Church Records
Death information	Vital Records, Cemeteries, Obituaries	Church Records, Probate Records, Funeral Homes, Military Records
Divorce	Court Records, Divorce Records, Vital Records	Newspapers, Obituaries
Emigration information	Emigration and Immigration, Naturalization and Citizenship, Census	Obituaries, Biography, History
Ethnic background	Minorities, Emigration and Immigration, Native Races	Census, Societies, Naturalization and Citizenship, Church records
Historical background	History, Gazetteers, Biography	Periodicals
Immigration date	Emigration and Immigration, Naturalization and Citizenship, Census	Genealogy, Obituaries, Biography, History

1. If you need	2. Look first in	3. Then search
Living relatives	Obituaries, Genealogy, Directories	Census, Probate Records, Church Records
Maiden name	Vital Records, Church Records, Obituaries	Newspapers, Bible Records, Military Records
Marriage information	Vital Records, Church Records, Census	Obituaries, Bible Records, Military Records
Migration information	Emigration and Immigration, Maps, Census	History, Land and Property, Military Records
Naturalization	Naturalization and Citizenship, Census, Obituaries	Land and Property, Court Records, Biography
Occupations	Census, Directories, Biography	Obituaries, Court Records
Other family members	Census, Obituaries, Vital Records, Church Records	Probate Records, Funeral Home Records, Bible Records, Military Records
Parents	Vital Records, Church Records, Census	Probate Records, Obituaries, Genealogy
Physical description	Military Records, Naturalization and Citizenship, Emigration and Immigration	Biography, Genealogy
Place-finding aids	Gazetteers, Maps, History	Periodicals
Places of previous residence	Census, Military Records, Obituaries	Land and Property, Naturalization and Citizenship, Emigration and Immigration
Place of residence when you know only the county	Census, Directories, Biography	Obituaries, History, Taxation
Place of residence when you know only the state	Census, Vital Records, Military Records	Naturalization and Citizenship
Previous research	Genealogy, Periodicals, Societies	History, Biography
Record-finding aids	Archives and Libraries, Societies, Periodicals	Genealogy, For Further Reading (in this outline)
Religion	Church Records, Obituaries, Cemeteries	Biography, Funeral Homes, History, Genealogy
Social activities	Biography, Newspapers, Societies	Obituaries, Directories, History

ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

Besides the Family History Library, other record repositories that have major collections and services for genealogical research are described below. The Family History Library has copies of some records of these archives, but all will have additional sources. Before you visit an archive or library, contact the organization and ask for information on the collection, hours, services, and fees. The Minnesota Historical Society's Internet site has their catalog on-line, many genealogical research helps, and locations of other genealogical sites.

Minnesota Historical Society

- Minnesota Historical Society Library
  345 Kellogg Blvd. W.
  St. Paul, MN 55102-1906
  Telephone: 651-296-2143
  Fax: 651-297-7436
  Internet: www.mnhs.org/library/

The Minnesota Historical Society Library has the State Archives collection, including local, county, school district, city, and state government records. The library has printed materials relating to the history of Minnesota, copies of the majority of newspapers published in Minnesota, and other historical documents. A guide to genealogical materials in their collection is:

Minnesota Historical Society. *Genealogical Resources of the Minnesota Historical Society: A Guide*. 2nd ed. St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1993. (FHL book 977.6 A3mh 1993; computer number 716016).

Much of the society's collection is unpublished. Of interest to genealogists are the personal papers in these collections. To find out if the society has a manuscript on your family see:

Minnesota Historical Society. *Guide to the Personal Papers in the Manuscript Collections of the Minnesota Historical Society*. 3 vols. St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1935, 1955, 1977. (FHL book 977.6 A3m; computer number 138444.) Lists the time period covered and a brief description of what is included, such as newspaper clippings, diaries, scrapbooks, and genealogical data.

Access to information about cataloged collections (printed, manuscripts, and archives holdings) of the Minnesota Historical Society is available on the Internet.

Regional Centers

The Minnesota Historical Society has established regional research centers that find and preserve local records of historical value. Some regional centers have a large collection of genealogy while others have more historical documents. These centers may have family papers, manuscripts, oral history interviews, photographs, maps, drawings of homes, and business and organizational records. Some centers may hold local government records. Some centers have published guides to their holdings. The society has published guides to some centers. The following books list some of the regional research centers' collections and their location:

Fogerty, James E., comp. *Preliminary Guide to the Holdings of the Minnesota Regional Research Centers*. St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Historical Society, 1975. (FHL book 977.6 A3f no. 1; computer number 218982.) This guide is divided into two sections: "Manuscripts" and "Oral History Interviews." Listed alphabetically, these include title of collection, person or organization, time frame, collection size, reference number, and an abbreviation that indicates which research center holds the collection.

Fogerty, James E., comp. *Manuscripts Collections of the Minnesota Regional Research Centers: Guide Number 2*. St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Historical Society, 1980. (FHL book 977.6 A3f no. 2; computer number 138433.) This follows the same format as *Preliminary Guide* cited above. It includes new holdings and collections that may have been moved.

The centers are listed below with the counties they cover. Call them for their hours, which vary from center to center, and to see what collections they may have.

- Central Minnesota Historical Center
  Centennial Hall, Room 31
  St. Cloud State University
  St. Cloud, MN 56301
  Telephone: 320-255-3254
  Internet e-mail: cmhc@stcloudstate.edu

This center serves the counties of Aitkin, Benton, Chisago, Crow Wing, Isanti, Kanabec. Mille Lacs, Pine, Sherburne, Stearns, Todd, Wadena, and Wright.

- North Central Minnesota Historical Center

Although this center has been discontinued, it is important to know that its collection was divided between Beltrami County Historical Society and

the Minnesota Historical Society. While in existence it served the counties of Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater, Hubbard, Itasca, Koochiching, and Lake of the Woods.

- Northeast Minnesota Historical Center
  University of Minnesota-Duluth
  Library 375
  Duluth, MN 55812
  Telephone: 218-726-8526
  Internet e-mail: pmaus@d.umn.edu

This center serves the counties of Carlton, Cook, Lake, and St. Louis. It is a manuscript repository with organizational, business, and family papers and records; maps; architectural drawings; and photo collections. It is also a publication library with at least 10,000 books and pamphlets, many of which are out of print. The center is not rich in genealogical material but works as a network with other repositories in the area that have genealogical material. For a guide to their collection see:

Northeast Minnesota Historical Center (Duluth, Minnesota). *Guide to the Collections of the Northeast Minnesota Historical Center.* Duluth, Minn.: University of Minnesota and St. Louis County Historical Society, 1988. (FHL book 977.6 A1 no. 57; computer number 523395).

- Northwest Minnesota Historical Center
  Livingston Lord Library
  Moorhead State University
  Moorhead, MN 56563
  Telephone: 218-236-2345
  Fax: 218-299-5924
  Internet: www.moorhead.msus.edu/library

This center serves the counties of Becker, Clay, Kittson, Mahnomen, Marshall, Norman, Otter Tail, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, Roseau, and Wilkin. For a guide to their collection see:

Northwest Minnesota Historical Center (Moorhead, Minnesota). *Guide to the Northwest Minnesota Historical Center Collections*. Moorhead, Minn.: Livingston Lord Library, Moorhead State University, 1988. (FHL book 977.6 A1 no. 58; computer number 523397).

- Southeast Minnesota Historical Center (Winona)

The collection of this discontinued center was divided among the historical societies of the counties it served and the Minnesota Historical Society. The collection included materials about the counties of Dodge, Fillmore, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Wabasha, and Winona.

- Southern Minnesota Historical Center
  Minnesota State University, Mankato
  Mankato, MN 56001
  Telephone: 507-389-1029

This center serves the counties of Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Freeborn, Le Sueur, Martin, Nicollet, Rice, Sibley, Steele, Waseca, and Watonwan.

- Southwest Minnesota Historical Center
  Southwest State University
  Social Science 141
  Marshall, MN 56258
  Telephone: 507-537-7373
  Fax: 507-537-7154

This center is very active in the genealogical community and has a great genealogical collection. It has some county and local government records that would normally go to the Minnesota Historical Society. It serves the counties of Cottonwood, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, McLeod, Meeker, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rock, and Yellow Medicine.

- West Central Minnesota Historical Center
  University of Minnesota–Morris
  600 East 4th St.
  Morris, MN 56267
  Telephone: 320-589-6183
  Fax: 320-589-6117
  Internet e-mail: ahernwh@mrs.umn.edu

This center serves the counties of Big Stone, Chippewa, Douglas, Grant, Pope, Stevens, Swift, and Traverse.

WebPals

WebPals is an Internet site that provides access to the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Statewide Automated Library System (MnSCU/PALS). Scores of academic and special libraries throughout the state are part of this system. Library catalogs identifying artifacts and printed materials may be searched at no charge. Additional resources in the catalog include: Civil War veteran card index, Minnesota alien registration card index, Minnesota biography file, photographs, and a Minneapolis newspaper index. There are also several subscription databases on the system. Not all materials are indexed on-line.

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Statewide Automated Library System. "WebPals." [Internet on-line catalog]. St. Paul, Minn: MSCU/PALS, 23 July 1998 [cited 16 November 1999]. The catalog can be searched at www.mnhs.org/library/search/index.html.

Additional Repositories

- Iron Range Research Center
  Highway 169 West
  P. O. Box 392
  Chisholm, MN 55719
  Telephone: 1-800-372-6437
  Fax: 218-254-5235
  Internet: www.ironworld.com/

This center has an extensive collection of records dealing with the string of towns that extends about 200 miles east to west across St. Louis County and other counties. This was a mining area where many immigrants were employed.

- Immigration History Research Center
  826 Berry St.
  University of Minnesota
  St. Paul, MN 55114
  Telephone: 612-627-4208
  Fax: 612-627-4190
  Internet e-mail: ihrc@gold.tc.umn.edu
  Internet: www1.umn.edu/ihrc/

The Immigration History Research Center's collection is national in scope but includes immigration to Minnesota. The immigrants are from central, eastern, and southern European countries. A majority of their records are in a foreign language. For a guide to their collection see:

University of Minnesota. Immigration History Research Center. *The Immigration History Research Center: A Guide to Collections.* New York: Greenwood Press, 1991. (FHL book 977.658 A3i; computer number 596174.) Summary of the archival and library holdings. The purpose of this guide is to assist researchers in determining the usefulness of the collection and to explain the procedure for gaining access to records.

- National Archives–Central Plains Region (Kansas City)
  2306 East Bannister Road
  Kansas City, MO 64131
  Telephone: 816-926-7271
  Fax: 816-926-6235
  Internet: www.nara.gov/regional/kansas.html

- National Archives–Great Lakes Region (Chicago)
  7358 South Pulaski Road
  Chicago, IL 60629
  Telephone: 773-581-7816
  Fax: 312-886-7883
  Internet: www.nara.gov/regional/chicago.html

  (Call in advance to reserve microfilm reader.)

- Minnesota Genealogical Society
  5768 Olson Memorial Highway
  Golden Valley, MN 55422-5014
  Telephone: 612-595-9347
  Internet: www.mtn.org/mgs/

Inventories of County Archives

In the late 1930s and early 1940s, the Historical Records Survey produced 40 inventories of Minnesota county archives. Though the inventories are outdated in many ways, you can use them to learn more about the history, record-keeping systems, and available records of Minnesota counties. The inventories are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – ARCHIVES AND LIBRARY – INVENTORIES, REGISTERS, CATALOGS

Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards

Computers with modems can be useful tools for obtaining information from selected archives and libraries. In a way, computer networks themselves serve as a library. The Internet, certain computer bulletin boards, and commercial on-line services help family history researchers:

- Locate other researchers.
- Post queries.
- Send and receive e-mail.
- Search large databases.
- Search computer libraries and on-line catalogs.
- Join in computer chat and lecture sessions.
- Order genealogical publications and supplies.

You can find computerized research tips and information about ancestors from Minnesota in a variety of sources at local, state, national, and international levels, and the list of sources is growing rapidly. Most of the information is available at no cost. *Addresses on the Internet change frequently.* The following sites are important gateways linking you to many more network and bulletin board sites:

FamilySearch™ Internet Genealogy Service [Internet site]. [Salt Lake City]: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 22 March

1999 [cited 26 October 1999]. Available at www.familysearch.org. At this site you can access the Family History Library Catalog, *Ancestral File*, *International Genealogical Index*, *SourceGuide*, lists of Family History Centers, web sites related to family history, and lists of researchers interested in similar genealogical topics. You can also learn about and order Family History Library publications.

Howells, Cyndi. "U.S. – Minnesota – MN." In Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet [Internet site]. Puyallup, Wash.: Cyndi Howells, 6 August 1999 [cited 26 October 1999]. Available at: www.cyndislist.com/mn.htm. This list has more links to other Minnesota genealogical sites and describes more resources than any other site on the Internet.

"Minnesota USGenWeb." In the USGenWeb Project [Internet site]. N.p., 1999 [cited 26 October 1999]. Available at www.rootsweb.com/~mngenweb/. This is a cooperative effort by many volunteers to list genealogical databases, libraries, bulletin boards, and other resources available on the Internet, for each county, state, and country.

"United States Resources: Minnesota." In RootsWeb [Internet site]. N.p., 12 July 1999 [cited 26 October 1999]. Available at: www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/usa/mn.html. This list of sites and resources includes a large, regularly updated research coordination list.

Gaunt, Christine. "Minnesota Resources." In Genealogy Resources on the Internet [Internet site]. N.p., 14 Jun 1999– [cited 26 October 1999]. Available at: www-personal.umich.edu/~cgaunt/minn.html. This site provides links to vital record offices, genealogical and historical societies, queries, mailing lists, county-by-county Internet sites, and gopher sites.

"MnGenExchange." In Genealogical Exchange and Surname Registry [Internet site]. N.p., 1996–1999 [cited 26 October 1999]. Available at: www.genexchange.com/mn/index.cfm. This site brings searchable data to genealogists, including databases (church, cemetery, census, land, immigration, naturalization, and vital records), directories, historical accounts, mailing lists, queries, local surname researchers, and look-up volunteers.

For further details about using computer networks, bulletin boards, and news groups for family history research see the *United States Research Outline* (30972), 2nd ed., "Archives and Libraries" section.

BIBLE RECORDS

Many families have traditionally recorded births, marriages, and deaths in a family Bible, family record book, or book of remembrance. Family Bibles that are no longer in the possession of the family may be at a historical or genealogical society. They are sometimes transcribed and published in genealogical periodicals.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) collection contains some Minnesota Bible records (see the "Genealogy" section of this outline) and is partially indexed in:

Kirkham, E. Kay. *An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the United States: 45,000 References as Taken from the Microfilm at the Genealogical Society of Utah.* Vol. 2. Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1984. (FHL book 973 D22kk v. 2; fiche 6089184; computer number 298346.)

BIOGRAPHY

A biography is a history of a person's life. In a biography you may find the individual's birth, marriage, and death information, and the names of his or her parents, children, or other family members. Biographies often include photographs, family traditions and stories, clues about an ancestor's place of origin, places where he or she has lived, church affiliation, military service, and activities within the community. The information must be used carefully, however, because there may be inaccuracies. Biographies are often included in county and local histories.

The best collections of published biographies in Minnesota are at the Minnesota Historical Society Library, the University of Minnesota, and the Minneapolis Public Library. The state historical society has published an index to biographical sketches:

Upham, Warren, and Rose Barteau Dunlap. *Minnesota Biographies, 1655–1912.* Collections of the Minnesota Historical Society. Vol. 14. St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Historical Society, 1912. (FHL book 977.6 B4m vol. 14; computer number 624579; film 1697445 item 4; computer number 249136.) Indexes about 100,000 individuals. The references came from newspapers, periodicals, and books within the Minnesota Historical Society Libraries collection.

The Minnesota Biographies project began in 1976 and added another 50,000 names updating and enhancing the book *Minnesota Biographies* listed above. These are on 5" x 7" cards at the Minnesota Historical Society Library.

The Minnesota Historical Society Library also has:

Nielsen, Steven. *Diaries in the Minnesota Historical Manuscript Collections*. Typescript, 1979. This 61-page typescript is an alphabetical list with a brief description of each diary's contents including dates covered. Also included is a 12-page addendum *Women's Diaries and Letters*. (Not available at the Family History Library.)

For a list of some oral interviews of Minnesota individuals see:

Minnesota Historical Society. *The Oral History Collections of the Minnesota Historical Society*. St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1984. (FHL book 977.6 H2mh; computer number 487070.) This lists oral histories on tape at the Minnesota Historical Society and the regional research centers. The listings give the length of the interview and a brief description of the individual. Some oral histories are restricted while others may be checked out or copied at your request.

The Family History Library also has a major collection of biographical sources. Search statewide, regional, and county histories and atlases for biographical information. Some representative biographical works are:

Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Minnesota. Chicago: A. T. Andreas, 1874. (FHL book 977.6 E7i; film 896864; computer number 246440.) This atlas has about 15,000 names of persons, by town, frequently giving their place of birth and occupation. A published index is:

Bakeman, Mary Hawker. *A Comprehensive Index to A. T. Andreas' Illustrated Historical Atlas of Minnesota–1874*. Brooklyn Park, Minn.: Park Genealogical Books, 1992. (FHL book 977.6 E7iL index; computer number 664382.) This is arranged alphabetically and gives the place of birth for most persons listed.

Burnquist, Joseph Alfred Arner, ed. *Minnesota and Its People*. 4 vols. Chicago: S.J. Clarke, 1924. (On 2 FHL films. Vols. 1–3 on films 928372; vol. 4 on film 928374 item 1; vols. 1–4 on fiche 6051360; computer number 249871.) Volumes 3 and 4 are biographical. Contains 700–800 biographies of men who helped build the state, up to and including World War I. Each volume has its own index.

Castle, Henry Anson. *Minnesota, Its Story and Biography*. 3 vols. Chicago: Lewis Publishing, 1915. (FHL book 976.6 H2ch; film 1000251; computer number 249863.) Volumes 2 and 3 contain biographies. An index to the biographies is near the beginning of volume 1.

Marquis, Albert Nelson. *The Book of Minnesotans: A Biographical Dictionary of Leading Living Men of the State of Minnesota*. Chicago: A.N. Marquis, 1907. (FHL films 459633; computer 381733.) This book contains over 4,000 short biographical sketches of prominent men from business, politics, religion, and the arts. Patterned after the *Who's Who* books.

Toensing, W. F. *Minnesota Congressmen, Legislators and Other Elected Officials: An Alphabetical Checklist, 1849–1971*. St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Historical Society, 1971. (FHL book 977.6 N2t; computer number 114184.) Gives birth and death dates, county and post office of residence, office to which elected, and year(s) of service.

The Family History Library has *Who's Who in Minnesota* for 1941, 1958, and 1964. An example is:

Cornwall, C. N. *Who's Who in Minnesota: 1941*. Minneapolis, Minn.: Minnesota Editorial Association, 1942. (FHL book 977.6 D3w; computer number 567611.) This contains birth dates and places, and names of parents and spouse. Arranged alphabetically by name within each county.

The Family History Library has many publications and histories with biographical information. They are generally listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MINNESOTA – BIOGRAPHY
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – BIOGRAPHY

CEMETERIES

Cemetery records, or sexton records, are usually found in the current sexton's charge, but may be in the town or county clerk's office. They may also be in the custody of private individuals.

Sexton records do not have a standard format and may vary in content. They may include the birth date; birthplace; parents' names; spouse's name;

death date and place; cemetery name; and if previously buried, the name of the cemetery removed from and the date the current lot was purchased. Remember that the information is only as reliable as the person who gave the information.

Genealogical society members often copy and publish tombstones inscriptions. The USGenWeb Archives have records from more than 70 cemeteries listed on their Internet site at:

"The Minnesota Tombstone Transcription Project." In USGenWeb Archives Digital Library [Internet site]. N.p.: USGenWeb Archives, 17 February 1999– [cited 26 October 1999]. Available at: www.rootsweb.com/usgenweb/mn/mnfiles.htm. This is a county-by-county list of scores of cemeteries. The highlighted cemeteries include tombstone abstracts. Abstracted cemeteries are indexed in:

"Search the USGenWeb Archives Digital Library" In USGenWeb Archives Digital Library [Internet site]. N.p.: USGenWeb Archives, 22 September 1997– [cited 26 October 1999]. Available at: www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/ussearch.htm. This indexes cemetery abstracts and other items. Select the state, type the name of your ancestor in the "Query" field, and click the **Search** button. For best results use the "Search Tips" and examples at the bottom of the web page. The computer will list any matches it finds and give you the option of viewing the full transcript.

The DAR collection contains tombstone inscriptions from Minnesota cemeteries (see the "Genealogy" section of this outline). The Minnesota Historical Society Library has a Works Projects Administration card file that lists the locations of cemeteries in the state. This file is not available at the Family History Library. A bibliography of published cemetery inscriptions is:

Pope, Wiley R. *Minnesota Cemeteries in Print: a Bibliography of Published Cemetery Inscriptions, and Burials, etc.* (St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Family Trees, 1986; FHL book 977.6 V33p; fiche 6104220; computer number 426039). This includes out-of-state burials. Statewide and county listings are subdivided by city or township.

Wiley Pope and Sarah Fee have published the following book on the location of many Minnesota cemeteries:

Minnesota Cemetery Locations. St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Family Tree, 1988. (FHL book 977.6 V34p; fiche 6110646; computer number 426041). Identifies over 4,000 cemeteries arranged by county. This book was revised and reprinted with the same title and authors in 1998. It is available at the Minnesota Historical Society Library but is not yet at the Family History Library.

The Minnesota Genealogical Society has had an ongoing project for the last 20 years of identifying transcribed cemetery records and who holds the transcriptions. These lists are organized by county. They have some of these transcriptions.

A county-by-county list of cemetery transcripts at the Family History Library as of 1988 is:

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Family History Library (Salt Lake City, Utah). *Index to United States Cemeteries*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1988. (FHL films 1206468–94; computer number 475648.) Film 1206477 includes Minnesota, along with Michigan. Information is on index cards arranged alphabetically by state, county, and cemetery name. Some smaller cemeteries list the individuals buried there and their death date. Cards may list location or sources of information. Each card gives the Family History Library book, film, or fiche call number.

The Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog lists more cemetery records under:

MINNESOTA – CEMETERIES
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – CEMETERIES
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] – CEMETERIES

CENSUS

A census is a count and description of the population of a country, colony, territory, state, county, or city. Census lists are also called *schedules*. A well-indexed census is one of the easiest ways to locate the specific places where your ancestors lived and to identify the time period they lived there. You can also find excellent family information, particularly in more recent censuses. Use the information with caution, however, since the information may have been given to a census taker by any member of the family or by a neighbor.

Federal Censuses

Population Schedules. Federal census records are found at the Minnesota Historical Society, the Family History Library, the National Archives,

and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* (30972) provides more detailed information on the contents of these records.

Minnesota has an 1850 federal territorial census, but the first federal census taken for the state of Minnesota was in 1860. The 1890 census was lost for all counties but Rockford. In the microfilmed schedules of the 1900 census, schedules for the White Earth Indian Reservation follow Yellow Medicine County. The Family History Library has the U.S. federal censuses of Minnesota from 1850 to 1920. The National Archives copy of the 1870 census was destroyed, but another version was reconstructed from duplicates preserved by the state. The Family History Library has copies from both the Minnesota Historical Society (Archives and Manuscripts Collections) and the National Archives.

Although most of the 1890 census was destroyed, small portions do exist for Minnesota:

United States. Census Office. 11th Census, 1890. *Population Schedules of the Eleventh Census of the United States, 1890.* National Archives Microfilm Publication M0407. Washington, D.C.: The National Archives, 1962. (FHL film 926499 is for Minnesota; computer number 59484.) The schedules for parts of Rockford, Wright County, Minnesota start on page 1017. For an every-name index to the 1890 census see:

Nelson, Ken. *1890 U.S. Census Index to Surviving Population Schedules and Register of Film Numbers to the Special Census of Union Veterans.* Rev. ed. Salt Lake City: Family History Library, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1991. (FHL book 973 X2na; computer number 609990.) This index covers the few surviving 1890 census schedules. The index gives name of individual and geographical location including state, county and township, and census schedule page number.

The Minnesota Historical Society has produced two microfiche of 1890 census information discovered several years ago. It covers several families in Rockville Township, Wright County, Minnesota:

U.S. Census Rockville Township, Wright County, Census Schedules, 1890. St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Historical Society, 1987. (Not at Family History Library.)

Statewide indexes for the census schedules of 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 are available in book format. These index the names of the heads of each household. They also include the first person in the household who has a different surname from the head. An 1860 every-name card index on microfilm is:

Index to the 1860 Federal Census Schedules for Minnesota. St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Historical Society, Division of Archives and Manuscripts, 1978. (FHL films 1373881–911; computer number 269148). The page numbers in this card index do not always correspond to the page numbers in the National Archives microfilms of the 1860 census. This index may be used to decide which county and township the family lived in. Then that location can be searched line by line on the census schedules.

The Minnesota Historical Society has an every-name card index to the 1870 federal census that is different from the printed version. The index is on microfilm and is available through interlibrary loan. A few printed county or area indexes exist for some of the state censuses.

There is a partial soundex (phonetic index) for the 1880 census that only covers families with children age 10 and under. Complete soundex indexes exist for the 1900 and 1920 censuses. There is no statewide index to the 1910 census of Minnesota.

Countywide indexes to federal censuses often contain the names of every person in the household, and may also include heads of households who were overlooked or whose names were misspelled in statewide indexes. Countywide indexes are listed in the Family History Library Catalog Locality Search under:

MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – CENSUS – [YEAR]

Multistate Indexes. Some of the indexes mentioned above are combined into one master index of several census years, states, and census types:

FamilyFinder Index and Viewer. Version 4.0. [Novato, Calif.]: Brøderbund Software, 1997. (FHL compact disc no. 9 1997 index; computer number 808500). This does not circulate to Family History Centers. It is a master index to the 1840 Iowa Territory census, which included selected counties of Minnesota; 1847 and 1849 territorial censuses; 1850 territorial census with records for 1852; and mortality schedules for 1850, 1860, and 1870; and additional records for 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, and 1877. These entries

may not be complete for all extant records. They do not cite the exact sources. An Internet edition of this index is also available:

"Internet FamilyFinder" In FamilyTreeMaker.com [Internet site]. [Novato, Calif.]: Brøderbund Software, 21 July 1999– [cited 26 October 1999]. Available at: www.familytreemaker.com/allsearch.html. You can search the FamilyFinder index for free. It displays the census year and state for each name matching the search. It may also list many vital records and genealogical collection citations. Once you know the census year and state, you must use the original index on compact disc, microfiche, or book to obtain enough data to find the name in the original census schedules. Similar index information is also available at www.Ancestry.com for a subscription fee. The FamilyFinder index includes the following Jackson indexes:

Jackson, Ronald Vern. *AIS Microfiche Indexes of U.S. Census and Other Records*. Bountiful, Utah: Accelerated Indexing Systems International, 1984. (No FHL fiche number, but available at many Family History Centers.) Contains a composite mortality schedule index on search 8, and separate 1840 and 1850 indexes and a partial 1860 index on other searches. For further instructions, see the *Accelerated Indexing System, U.S. Census Indexes on Microfiche Resource Guide* (30970).

When indexes are not available or a name is omitted from an index you can still look for the name in the census. To find a person who lived in a large city, it helps to first find his or her address in the city directory for the same year as the census. (See the "Directories" section of this outline). Then look for that address on the original census schedules.

The following reference tools help determine which census schedule microfilm and enumeration district to search for specific addresses:

Kirkham, E. Kay. *A Handy Guide to Record-Searching in the Larger Cities of the United States*. Logan, Utah: Everton, 1974. (FHL book 973 D27kc; fiche 6010059-60; computer number 55656.) Contains street maps for Duluth, Minneapolis, and St. Paul.

Census Descriptions of Geographic Subdivisions and Enumerations Districts.

- 1880 (FHL film 1402861; computer number 299426)
- 1900 (FHL film 1303023; computer number 117685)
- 1910 (FHL film 1374006; computer number 176643)
- 1920 (FHL film 1842709; computer number 687949)

Buckway, G. Eileen. *U.S. 1910 Federal Census: Unindexed States: A Guide to Finding Census Enumeration Districts for Unindexed Cities, Towns, and Villages*. Salt Lake City: Family History Library, 1992. (FHL book 973 X2bu 1910; fiche 6101340; computer number 678265.) This lists all Minnesota towns (or wards) with their 1910 census enumeration district numbers and FHL film numbers. Duluth, Minneapolis, and St. Paul each have special instructions, often including FHL book or film numbers for city directories.

Malmberg, Emil and Maurine. *Street Indexes to Unindexed Cities in the U.S. 1910 Federal Census*. Salt Lake City: Family History Library, 1993. (FHL book 973 X2str 1910; fiche 6104151; computer number 709519.) This lists Minneapolis street addresses with their corresponding page numbers, 1910 census enumeration district numbers, and FHL film numbers.

Mortality schedules (1850–1880) list those persons who died in the 12-month period prior to the census. Mortality schedules for Minnesota exist for the years 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880. The schedules for the years 1860 and 1880 are indexed for the entire state. The 1850 and 1870 schedules have separate indexes for each county. These schedules and indexes are available on film at the Family History Library. These can be looked up in the Family History Library Catalog Locality Search under:

MINNESOTA – CENSUS

There is also a surviving portion of a 1900 mortality schedule taken for Minnesota. The printed full transcription at the Family History Library is:

Warren, James W. *Minnesota 1900 Census Mortality Schedule*. St. Paul, Minn.: Warren Research & Marketing Publication, 1992. (FHL book 977.6 X2w 1900; computer number 591625.) The book contains 3225 individuals. It is arranged alphabetically by county, with the large cities following the counties in which they are located. Indian reservations are listed at the end of the counties. It gives name, age, color, sex,

marital status, month died, cause of death, and physician. It also has a glossary of medical terms. This book lists only deaths that were not registered in Minnesota vital records in the 12 months before 1 June 1900. Some of the deaths were later copied into the county death registers. This book is available at the Minnesota Historical Society Library and many other libraries. The surviving 1900 schedules and transcripts are available at the Minnesota Historical Society.

There are published indexes to the mortality schedules for 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880:

Mortality Records of Minnesota by Counties from the Territorial Period of 1850 to the End of the Year 1870: with the Records of St. Louis County to End of Year 1883. Typescript, 1947. (FHL book 977.6 V23d; film 823717 item 2; fiche 6051203; computer number 245813). This book gives name, age, sex, state or country of birth, occupation, and month of death. The St. Louis County lists are for 1872–1879 and 1881–1883. This book is arranged by county and is not indexed. The records come from the federal census except St. Louis County, which appears to come from local records.

Jackson, Ronald Vern, ed. *Mortality Schedule, Minnesota 1880.* Bountiful, Utah: Accelerated Indexing Systems, 1979. (FHL book 977.6 X2j 1880; computer number 12642.) The list is arranged alphabetically and gives the county of residence.

Veteran Schedules ((1890). A special census was taken in 1890 of Union veterans of the Civil War:

United States. Census Office. 11th Census, 1890. *Schedules Enumerating Union Veterans and Widows of Union Veterans of the Civil War.* National Archives Microfilm Publication M123. (On 118 FHL films; computer number 59376.) The Minnesota returns are available at the Family History Library on FHL films 338181–84. This census lists the veteran's name or widow, rank, company and regiment or vessel, dates of service, and current post office address. An index to the Minnesota returns has been published:

Dilts, Bryan Lee. *1890 Minnesota Census Index of Civil War Veterans or Their Widows.* Salt Lake City: Index Publishing, 1985. (FHL book 977.6 X22d 1890; computer number 356679).

Territorial and State Censuses

There are early censuses that list inhabitants of the area that became Minnesota. A small portion of what is now Minnesota is included in the Michigan 1820 territorial census. For this census index see:

Jackson, Ronald Vern. *Michigan 1820 Census Index.* Bountiful, Utah: Accelerated Indexing Systems, 1981. (FHL book 977.4 X22m 1820; computer number 312279.)

Portions of present-day Minnesota were included in the 1836 Wisconsin territorial census, as part of Crawford and Dubuque counties. (Dubuque County was later in Iowa Territory.) In 1838, the Wisconsin territorial census covered some of Minnesota in Crawford and Clayton counties. Some Minnesota residents are listed in the 1840 territorial censuses of Wisconsin and Iowa.

In 1849 Minnesota became its own territory. Censuses were taken in 1849, 1850, 1853, 1855 and 1857. A microfilmed index is at Minnesota Historical Library and available through interlibrary loan. Parts or all of some of these censuses have been lost. Others are at the Minnesota Historical Society Library. The Family History Library has:

Minnesota. Census Bureau. *Schedules of the Minnesota Census of 1857.* National Archives Microfilm Publication, T1175. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1973. (FHL films 944283–90; computer number 324086.) The 1857 census is arranged alphabetically by county and then by the smaller jurisdiction. It was taken by 21 September 1857 and lists each household member and includes name, age, sex, race, birth locality (state, territory, or country), occupation, and if naturalized or native citizen.

According to the article below, some fictional names of people and places of residence were listed in southwestern Minnesota in the 1857 census:

Forrest, Robert J."Mythical Cities of Southwestern Minnesota." *Minnesota History: A Quarterly Magazine.*14, no. 3 (September 1933): 243–62. (FHL book 977.6 H25m; film 965778; computer number 26473.)

After Minnesota became a state, censuses listing the name of every person were taken by the state government in 1865, 1875, 1885, 1895, and 1905. Portions of some counties have been indexed, and some are available in published format. Census schedules for some years have been lost for some

counties. Microfilms are available at the Minnesota Historical Society and at the Family History Library.

The Minnesota Historical Society created guides of their collection for the 1865, 1875, 1885, 1895, and 1905 censuses that include a county index, an introduction that lists counties that have no schedule, and a roll content list that has the subdivisions (townships, municipalities) in each county and the order they appear on the roll. To find these guides, see the Locality Search of the catalog under:

MINNESOTA – CENSUS – [YEAR] – INVENTORIES, REGISTERS, CATALOGS

The Minnesota Historical Society's *Genealogical Resources of the Minnesota Historical Society, A Guide* has information on all the censuses that pertain to Minnesota. (See the "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline.)

Some of the early territorial censuses have been published in the *Minnesota Genealogist* and the *Minnesota Genealogical Journal.* (See the "Periodicals" section of this outline.)

Microfilm numbers of Minnesota territorial or state censuses are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MINNESOTA – CENSUS – [YEAR]

They are also found in:

Buckway, G. Eileen. *U.S. State and Special Census Register: A Listing of Family History Library Microfilm Numbers.* Salt Lake City: Family History Library, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1992. (FHL book 973 X2be 1992; fiche 6104851–52.; computer number 594855)

CHURCH RECORDS

Many churches keep records of baptisms, christenings, confirmations, marriages, burials, memberships, admissions, and removals. Some keep minutes of church meetings and the histories of their local church. Each church has its own policies in record keeping.

Church records are important for family research because civil authorities in Minnesota did not begin registering births and deaths on a county level until 1870 and even later on a state level. (See the "Vital Records" section of this outline for more information on birth, death, and other records.) Before 1900 the largest religious groups in Minnesota were the Roman Catholics and Lutherans. There were also many Methodists, Episcopalians, Congregationalists, and Presbyterians.

Although records of some congregations have been gathered in major denominational repositories, the majority still remain with local churches.

Refer to the following inventory to learn more about the available records:

Historical Records Survey (Minnesota). *Guide to Church Vital Statistics Records in Minnesota: Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals.* St. Paul, Minn.: Historical Records Survey, 1942. (FHL book 977.6 K23h; film 962275 item 2; computer number 109180.) This list is by county, then town or city. It mentions the church records of some congregations that existed at the church in 1940 and gives the years that the records were available.

Directory of Churches and Religious Organizations in Minnesota. St. Paul, Minn.: Historical Records Survey, 1941. (FHL book 977.6 K24h; film 1036193 item 13; fiche 6051165; computer number 245669.) This volume contains an incomplete list of churches; many congregations were missed. Information is arranged first by denomination, then district or conference, then the name of the church. Entries include the address of the church, year of incorporation, and often the name of the minister in 1941. For a reprint of this book see:

Richardson, Antona Hawkins, ed. *Directory of Churches and Religious Organizations in Minnesota: A New and Expanded Index.* 1941. Reprint. St. Paul, Minn.: Paduan Press, 1997. (Not at the Family History Library.)

Individual churches hold most church records for Minnesota. Some denominations are gathering their records or information on their records into a central repository. Availability of these records may differ with each repository. The major repositories include the following denominations.

Congregational

Congregational Library
14 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108
Telephone: 617-523-0470
Fax: 617-523-0491

Internet: www.14beacon.org/

The Congregational Historical Society is also located in the same building. The Congregational Library has a collection of church records and biographies on church leaders. However, they do not have a master surname index to their collection. They have a few items for Minnesota, including records from the Church of the Open Door.

Before beginning research and to have a better understanding of the makeup of the denominations and the location of these records, see:

Hage, Anne A. *Church Records in Minnesota: A Guide to Parish Records of Congregational, Evangelical, Reformed, and United Church of Christ Churches, 1851–1981.* Minneapolis, Minn.: Minnesota Conference, United Church of Christ, 1983. (FHL book 977.6 K2h; computer number 364634.) This source mentions the kinds and dates of records at each church up to 1981.

Jewish

American Jewish Historical Society Library
2 Thornton Road
Waltham, MA 02453-7711
Telephone: 781-891-8110
Fax: 781-899-9208
Internet e-mail: ajhs@ajhs.org
Internet: www.ajhs.org

The American Jewish Historical Society Library has an extensive collection consisting of manuscripts on individuals, institutions, and organizations that pertain to the Jewish experience in America. They also have a collection of Jewish American family genealogies that is continually growing. One of the collections is from the Industrial Removal Office. It is arranged alphabetically by city and then by state. It contains information about individuals from the lower east end of New York who were helped to find jobs and relocate in the Midwest.

For a history about the Jewish people in Minnesota, see:

Plaut, W. Gunther. *The Jews in Minnesota:The First Seventy-Five Years.* New York: American Jewish Historical Society, 1959. (FHL book 977.6 F2p; computer number 249877.)

Lutheran

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA), Region 3
2481 Como Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55108
Telephone: 651-641-3205

The American Lutheran Church (ALC) Archives are now part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) Archives. They have divided their records into nine regions. Region 3 covers Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. If a church is still active, the regional archive can help locate their records. The records of Minnesota churches that have been disbanded are at this archive. For a partial list of Lutheran church records, see:

ALC Congregations on Microfilm. Dubuque, Iowa: The Archives, [197–?]. (FHL fiche 6330690–93 [set of 4]; computer number 170040.) No circulation to Family History Centers. Arranged by state and city of congregation. The microfiche number for Minnesota is 6330691. There are over 200 churches listed in Minnesota with the city, name of the church, type of records, county, and their microfilm or microfiche number.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
8765 West Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631-4198
Telephone: 773-380-2818
Fax: 773-380-2977
Internet: www.elca.org

This archive has microfilm copies of part of the records at the Region 3 facility in St. Paul. They can help locate records of a congregation if you know the name of the congregation.

Methodist

United Methodist Annual Conference
122 West Franklin Avenue, Room 400
Minneapolis, MN 55404
Telephone: 612-870-0058, ext. 249
Internet: www.mnumc.org

This conference includes all United Methodist congregations in the state of Minnesota as well as the earlier churches from which they were formed. Some earlier churches include: Methodist, Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Protestant, Evangelical United Brethren, United Brethren, and United Evangelical.

The first conference, which was formed in 1856, was known as *Evangelical Gemeindschaft,* or Evangelical Association. There is information about the conference and its congregations before 1856. The conference can help identify and locate existing records. The records may include membership, preparatory membership, baptism, marriage, a few death records, and occasionally a column that lists what happened to the member.

Hobart, Chauncey. *History of Methodism in Minnesota*. 1887. Reprint, Brooklyn Park, Minn.: Park Genealogical Books, 1992. (FHL book 977.6 K2hc; computer number 675336.) This history contains a glossary of terms used in nineteenth-century Methodism and an every-name index to biographies included in the work.

Presbyterian

Presbyterian Historical Society and Department of History
United Presbyterian Church USA
425 Lombard Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147-1516
Telephone: 215-627-1852
Fax: 215-627-0509
Internet: www.libertynet.org/pacscl/phs/

The Presbyterian congregations own their records. The Presbyterian Historical Society and Department of History have a card file catalog that lists the congregations by the local town name only and this does not include the state. They sort the new records by zip code. They can help you find records if you give them the name of the town. If you know where your ancestor lived, check with the congregations still in existence in that area.

Information about Presbyterian churches before 1907 is found in:

Campbell, E. V. *History of the Churches of the Presbytery of St. Cloud*. St. Cloud, Minn.: Journal Press, 1907?. (FHL film 1845852 item 3; computer number 688385.) Gives information about the organization and early life of the Presbyterian Church especially in St. Cloud area.

Roman Catholic

The records most useful to family history researchers are the records of baptism, marriage, burial, and confirmation made by parish priest in the local churches. These are sometimes referred to as sacramental records. Some of these records may remain in the local churches while others have been moved to the diocesan offices and archives.

Archdiocese of St. Paul
226 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55102
Telephone: 651-291-4400
Fax: 651-290-1629
Internet: www.archspm.org/

The Archdiocese of St. Paul has records dating back 150 years that include early sacramental records and correspondence between church and government. They also have correspondence from the Catholic Colonization Society based in Chicago. This correspondence deals with finding and placing Catholic immigrants. They have microfilmed many of their sacramental records. These are available at the archdiocese office. Call or write ahead for an appointment. Several lists of their microfilmed parish records have been published in the last few years of the *Minnesota Genealogist*.

Diocese of New Ulm
1400 6th St. N.
New Ulm, MN 56073-2099
Telephone: 507-359-2966
Fax: 507-354-3667
Internet: www.dnu.org/

The Diocese of New Ulm has microfilmed records available at the Family History Library and the diocesan office.

Diocese of Crookston
1200 Memorial Drive
PO Box 610
Crookston, MN 56716
Telephone: 218-281-4533
Fax: 218-281-3328
Internet: www.crookston.org/

The Diocese of Crookston has many of their records on microfilm.

Diocese of Duluth
2830 East 4th St.
Duluth, MN 55812
Telephone: 218-724-9111
Fax: 218-724-1056
Internet: www.dioceseduluth.org

Diocese of St. Cloud
214 South 3rd Ave.
St. Cloud, MN 56301
Telephone: 320-251-2340
Fax: 320-251-0470
Internet: www.stcdio.org/

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 1248
St. Cloud, MN 56302

Diocese of Winona
55 West Sanborn St.
Winona, MN 55987
Telephone 507-454-4643
Fax 507-454-8106
Internet: www.dow.org

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 588
Winona, MN 55987

A guide to the Catholic churches in Minnesota is:

Catholic Church. Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. *Official Minnesota Catholic Directory, 1989: Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Diocese of Crookston, Diocese of Duluth, Diocese of New Ulm, Diocese of St. Cloud, Diocese of Winona*. St. Paul, Minn. The Catholic Bulletin, 1988. (FHL book 977.6 K24c; computer number 396625.) This directory gives the address and telephone number of each church and includes a list of towns and the diocese to which the town belongs. These directories are updated yearly.

The Minnesota Historical Society has records of some individual churches and religious groups. Only a few of the church records held by the Minnesota Historical Society have been microfilmed. They have an inventory for each series of church records that lists the contents of each roll of film. These copies are available through interlibrary loan.

The Family History Library does not have an extensive collection of church records for Minnesota. Local church records that are available are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – CHURCH RECORDS
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] – CHURCH RECORDS

COURT RECORDS

Information about many of your ancestors can be found in court records, perhaps as defendants, plaintiffs, witnesses, or jurors. They may have participated in cases involving probate, naturalization, divorce, debt, adoption, guardianship, licenses, appointment to public offices, taxes, civil and criminal lawsuits, property disputes, crimes, or other matters brought before a court. Court records can establish family relationships and places of residence. They often provide occupations, descriptions of individuals, and other excellent family history information.

Between the date counties were created and the date they were organized, which could be several years, some counties were attached to other counties for administrative purposes. This sometimes makes it hard to find the early records.

Major courts that kept records of genealogical value were established as follows:

1849–1858	***Territorial courts*** were created in 1849. They included district, probate, and supreme courts. In 1858 territorial courts were replaced by state courts which kept the same names and handled most of the same kinds of cases.
1858–present	***State Supreme Court*** is an appellate court that hears cases from the district court.
1983–present	A state ***Court of Appeals*** hears most appeals from the district court.
1858–present	***Probate Court*** has handled probates of estates, incompetency cases, guardianship, and other probate matters. It also acts as the juvenile court for cases in counties with a population under 40,000.
1858–present	***Municipal and justice of the peace courts*** in local cities and towns have jurisdiction over misdemeanor cases. Most municipal courts merged into the county probate courts
1858–present	***District courts*** are established over several counties but sit in each county. They receive cases from lower courts, such as justices of the peace and municipal courts, which were abolished in the 1970s. They have jurisdiction over certain criminal and civil cases, including divorces and naturalization, and over juvenile cases for counties with a population over 40,000. Many counties have transferred their older records to the Minnesota Historical Society, but the indexes have generally remained with the county. The clerk of the district court (name changed in the 1980s to *court administrator*) has indexes of plaintiffs and defendants. The lower court records were usually kept by the clerk of the district court. The clerk also handled marriage, birth, and death records on a county level.

Now most vital records are not handled by courts, but by other county offices, usually the recorder.

The records are available at county courthouses and the Minnesota Historical Society Library. The Family History Library has few civil and criminal court records of Minnesota. You can obtain the needed records by visiting or corresponding with the appropriate court.

DIRECTORIES

Directories are alphabetical lists of names and addresses. City directories can help you learn where an ancestor lived. The person's occupation is frequently given. Often the home address and the business address are both mentioned. When a husband has died, the widow is often listed as "widow of . . . ." Directories can sometimes help when you search census records to determine in which ward the family lived for a particular time in a big city. Directories sometimes have maps and addresses of churches, cemeteries, courthouses, and other important locations.

Polk, R.L. and Company. *Northwestern Gazetteer, Minnesota, North and South Dakota and Montana Gazetteer and Business Directory*. St. Paul, Minn.: Polk, 1914. (FHL film 1321220-21; computer number 235360.) The first part of the directory covers Minnesota and lists residences of people, often with their occupation. It also serves as a gazetteer for the time. It lists population, churches and commercial buildings, newspapers, and where land was located and the price for which it was selling.

The following are examples of directories found at the Family History Library:

- St. Paul
  1856–1859 . . . . . FHL fiche 6044463–65; computer number 659064

- 1863–1935 . . . . . beginning with FHL film 13770507; computer number 659064

- Minneapolis
  1865–1935 . . . . . beginning with FHL film 1377061; computer number 659037

The Family History Library and the Minnesota Historical Society Library have incomplete collections of directories from throughout Minnesota. Many were published as county directories, listing inhabitants of major towns in the county. Rural directories collected information on farmers, dairymen, and other rural residents.

Directories are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – DIRECTORIES
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY], [CITY] – DIRECTORIES

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

Emigration records list the names of people leaving an area, and immigration records list those coming into an area. The *United States Research Outline* (30972) "Emigration and Immigration" section lists several important sources for finding information about immigrants. These nationwide sources include many references to people who settled in Minnesota. The *Tracing Immigrant Origins Research Outline* (34111) introduces the principles, search strategies, and additional record types you can use to identify an immigrant ancestor's original hometown.

Pre-statehood residents of Minnesota were primarily American Indians and French and British immigrants. After 1858 settlers in Minnesota generally came from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Pennsylvania, and New York. After 1860 thousands of immigrants came from Germany, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Canada, and Denmark.

Minnesota has no ports of entry. Most immigrants to Minnesota arrived at a major eastern port such as New York, Boston, Philadelphia, or Quebec. Some Minnesota immigrants prior to 1855 entered through the port of New Orleans. The Family History Library has records for the ports of New York, Boston, and New Orleans beginning about 1820. Philadelphia records start in 1800. See the *United States Research Outline* (30972) for details. Quebec port records begin in 1865. Settlers generally followed the Great Lakes and the railroads to Illinois and Wisconsin, or they traveled up the Mississippi River. Steamboats and vessels traveling the lakes and rivers were not required to keep passenger lists.

Lists of persons coming from Canada to the United States were not recorded until 1895. Persons who crossed the border after that year might be listed in *Soundex Index to Canadian Border Entries Through the St. Albans, Vt. District, 1895–1924*, and other sources mentioned in the "Emigration and Immigration" section of the *Canada Research Outline* (34545). These and other border entry indexes and lists are also described in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

CANADA – EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION
UNITED STATES – EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

The Minnesota Historical Society has *Alien Registration Records* made in February 1918, listing most non-U.S. citizens in Minnesota. The indexes and records are on microfilm but are not at the Family History Library. The registration form gives name, place of birth (sometimes the town), port of entry, date of arrival, names of children, and occupation. Contact the Minnesota Historical Society Library at the address listed in the "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline for further information.

Information about immigrant groups from eastern and southern Europe is at the Immigration History Research Center described in the "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline.

To find books about migration in Minnesota, use a Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MINNESOTA – EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

Records of major ethnic groups are also listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MINNESOTA – MINORITIES.

See the "Minorities" and "Naturalization and Citizenship" sections of this outline for additional sources on immigrant groups.

FUNERAL HOMES

Funeral home records vary greatly in the information they contain. They may give death and burial date and place, birth date and place, parents, spouse, maiden name, other family members, religion, and names of the person or persons responsible for the funeral expenses. It is not uncommon for a funeral home to include a biography or obituary and the names and residences of surviving relatives.

Some funeral home records start as early as the 1880s, although many of the earliest records have been lost or destroyed. Old records may be in the custody of a funeral home currently in business in the area; often, mortuaries that changed hands or relocated saved the old records. Some records have been given to local libraries or societies. Funeral home personnel are generally helpful and are familiar with the locations of active cemeteries and sextons or caretakers you can contact. Telephone calls or personal visits are generally more effective than letters.

The Minnesota Historical Society Library has a directory covering funeral homes from 1911 to 1936.

Minnesota Board of Health. *Directory, Embalmers and Funeral Director Holding the License of the Minnesota State Board of Health.* (MHS book RA623.83m63).

A few funeral home records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MINNESOTA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] – FUNERAL HOMES

An example of the funeral home records found at the Family History Library is:

Kelly-Johnson-Bowman Mortuary (Mankato, Minnesota). *Funeral Records, 1926–1930.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1990. (FHL film 1674228; computer number 604819.) Their records give names of the deceased, birthplace, relationship to nearest kin, date and place of funeral, date and place of death, occupation of the deceased, marital status, religion and age. Records also give the names of parents and their birthplaces. Information is not complete in every record.

GAZETTEERS

Gazetteers list geographical names such as towns, settlements, rivers, mountains, villages, and districts. Sometimes they list the population and other details about the location. They usually include only the name of places as they existed at the time the gazetteer was published.

Some gazetteers of Minnesota are:

Bakeman, Mary. *Minnesota Places: Then and Now.* St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Genealogical Society, 1991. (FHL book 977.6 A1 no. 100; computer number 249101.) This book includes 855 towns and 192 other places that have a post office. It also lists more than 1,900 names of towns in Minnesota, past and present.

Rippley, LaVern J. *German Place Names in Minnesota.* Northfield, Minn.: St. Olaf College, 1980. (FHL book 977.6 E2r; computer number 596310.) This book identifies over 200 German names of towns, settlements, townships, and

bodies of water in the state. The text is in English and German.

Upham, Warren. *Minnesota Geographic Names: Their Origin and Historic Significance*. St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Historical Society, 1969. (FHL book 977.6 E2u; computer number 95048.) This study of Minnesota place names was originally done in 1920. This edition includes an introduction updated by the author and a supplement listing localities created since 1920.

GENEALOGY

The term *genealogy* is used in this outline and in the Family History Library Catalog to describe a variety of records containing family information previously gathered by other researchers, societies, or archives. These records may include pedigree charts, compiled data on families, correspondence, ancestor lists, research exchange files, record abstracts, and collections of original or copied documents. These can be excellent sources of information that can save you time. Because they are secondary sources of information, however, they must be carefully evaluated for accuracy, and the original sources should be consulted whenever possible.

Nationwide Indexes

You will find information on the following important nationwide genealogical indexes in the *United States Research Outline* (30972), in the sections indicated.

- *Ancestral File* ("Genealogy" section. Also available on the FamilySearch™ Internet Genealogy Service.)
- *FamilyFinder Index* ("Census" section. Also on the Internet at: www.familytreemaker.com/allsearch.html.)
- Family History Library Catalog Surname Search ("Introduction" and "Genealogy" sections. Also available on the FamilySearch™ Internet Genealogy Service.)
- *Genealogical Index of the Newberry Library* ("Genealogy" section.)
- *Index to American Genealogies* ("Genealogy" section.)
- *Index to National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC)* ("Genealogy" section. Also available on the Internet at: www.lcweb.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/nucmc.html.)
- *International Genealogical Index* ("Genealogy" section. Also available on FamilySearch™ Internet Genealogy Service.)
- *Old Surname Index File* ("Genealogy" section.)
- *Periodical Source Index (PERSI)* ("Periodicals" section. Also available on the Internet at www.Ancestry.com for a subscription fee.)

These indexes are available at the Family History Library and many libraries with family history collections.

Web Sites About Your Family

Search the Internet for family history web sites about your surname. Use the "Search for Ancestors" feature of the FamilySearch™ Internet Genealogy Service at www.familysearch.com/default.asp to help you find such sites.

Statewide Collections and Publications

Most archives, historical societies, and genealogical societies have special collections and indexes of genealogical value. Usually these must be searched in person. Important manuscript collections of compiled Minnesota genealogies are:

Daughters of the American Revolution (Minnesota). *Genealogical Collection*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1971. (FHL films 868493–96; computer number 453643.) This collection consists of transcripts of Bible records, cemetery records, church records, records of marriages and deaths, obituaries, and wills. A partial surname index to these films is found in E. Kay Kirkham's *An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the United States* (see the "Bible Records" section of this outline). Another DAR collection is:

Genealogical Collections of the Daughters of the American Revolution for the State of Minnesota: Church Records, Diary, Early Minnesota Wills, Family Genealogies, etc. [St. Paul, Minn.] 1945, (FHL book 977.6 D2d; fiche 6051204; computer number 249959.) The collection contains a variety of materials such as genealogies; a transcript of all the wills in Faribault, Minnesota, from 1858 to 1886; vital records from a church in Duluth; a diary of 1870; and material on the Indian Wars of 1864. It has an index.

An every-name index of over 26,000 names found in a variety of genealogical, biographical, and historical sources is:

Pope, Wiley R. *Minnesota Genealogical Index*. St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Family Trees, 1984. (FHL book 977.6 D22p; computer number 426038.) Some of the sources indexed in this record are: 1849 census; state laws, 1849–1857; naturalization records by the Minnesota Supreme Court, 1858–1910; prison lists, 1853–1900; and physicians' and dentists' lists for 1896.

A source for French Canadian ancestors who emigrated to Minnesota is:

Laneau, Paul J., and Elmer Courteau, comp. *French-Canadian Families of the North Central States: A Genealogical Dictionary*. 8 vols. St. Paul, Minn.: Northwest Territory French and Canadian Heritage Institute, 1980. (FHL book 973 D2la; fiche 6010503–11; computer number 86402).) Lists families or marriages in alphabetical order. The key to understanding the system is located on page iv.

Many genealogies have been compiled and published in sources such as:

Southwest State University (Minnesota). Southwest Minnesota Historical Center. *Family History Group Sheets and Surname File*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1990. (FHL films 1728928–30; computer number 614003.) The surname file is an index for the family group record collection. It is on cards in alphabetical order and gives name, date and place of birth, spouse's name, and location or name of file. Information is often incomplete, and no documentation is listed. Not all names found on the family group sheets are listed in the card file.

Frasczak, Mary Jo. *Ancestor Charts*. St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Genealogical Society, 1979. (FHL book 977.6 D2a; computer number 10691.) These indexed pedigree charts combine names, dates, and places of ancestors as well as compiler's name and address and the date submitted. They do not cite the sources of the information.

Frasczak, Mary Jo. *Family Group Sheets Submitted by Members of the Minnesota Genealogical Society*. St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Genealogical Society, 1982. (FHL book 977.6 D2f; computer number 480089.) These indexed family group sheets give dates and places of many early Minnesota ancestors.

Bible, Genealogical, Vital Records and Pioneer Stories of Minnesota. 2 vols. Duluth, Minn.: n.p, [1946–47]. (FHL book 977.6 D2da; fiche 6051211; computer number 249963.) Includes Bible records, family genealogical records indexed by surname, early census records, deeds, wills, tombstones, vital statistics, church records, and indexed pioneer stories.

HISTORY

The following important dates in the history of Minnesota affected political jurisdictions, record keeping, and family movements.

1686–1762	The French established a chain of forts and small settlements in the area of Minnesota.
1763–1819	The area was controlled by British fur traders of the Northwest Company.
1783	Great Britain grants eastern portions of Minnesota to the United States.
1787–1800	Part of Northwest Territory
1800–1809	Part of Indiana Territory
1803	The United States obtains the western portion of the area through the Louisiana Purchase.
1809–1818	Part of Illinois Territory
1820	The U.S. Army establishes Fort Snelling at its permanent location near the future site of St. Paul. It becomes a nucleus of settlement. Mississippi River steamboats reach Fort Snelling in 1823.
1818–1836	The area that is now Minnesota is in Michigan Territory.
1836	All of Minnesota is in Wisconsin Territory.
1837	Sioux and Chippewa Indians sell their claim to the St. Croix Valley, opening the way to major white settlements in eastern Minnesota.
1840	Some Minnesota residents are listed in the 1840 territorial censuses of Wisconsin and Iowa.
1849	Congress creates Minnesota Territory.
1851–1855	The Indians give up their rights to millions of acres of land west of the Mississippi River.

1854	Large scale immigration begins when the railroad reaches the Mississippi River.
1858	Minnesota gains statehood.
1861–1865	The Civil War and Indian wars involve 22,000 men.
1862	Dakota Conflict (See the "Military Records" section of this outline for details.)
1870–1890	Rapid settlement as homesteaders—many immigrants from Germany, Sweden, and Norway—move into western and southwestern Minnesota.
1917–1918	More than half a million men between age 18 and 45 register with the Selective Service; about 75,000 enter the service in World War I
1930s	Many Mexican Americans arrive.
1941–1945	More than 6,000 Minnesota soldiers lose their lives in World War II.
1970s	Arrival of refugees from southeast Asia

State Histories

Two sources for studying the history of Minnesota are:

Folwell, William Watts. *A History of Minnesota.* 4 vols. Saint Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Historical Society, 1921–1930. (FHL book 977.6 H2f; film 1036196 items 2–5; computer number 249860.) This history focuses on firsts in the state: first white men, first commerce, and so on. Volume 4 has a cumulative index.

Blegen, Theodore C. *Minnesota: A History of the State.* 2d ed. [Minneapolis, Minn.]: University of Minnesota Press, 1975. (FHL book 977.6 H2bt; computer number 107872.) This is a concise history with an extensive bibliography and index.

Local Histories

Some of the most valuable sources for family history research are local histories. Published histories of towns, counties, and states usually contain accounts of area families. The *United States Research Outline* (30972) "History" section cites nationwide bibliographies of local histories that include local histories of Minnesota. For statewide bibliographies of local histories, see:

Brook, Michael. *Reference Guide to Minnesota History: A Subject Bibliography of Books, Pamphlets, and Articles in English.* St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Historical Society, 1974. (FHL book 977.6 A3b; computer number 249105.)

Brook, Michael. *A Supplement to Reference Guide to Minnesota History: A Subject Bibliography, 1970–1980.* St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1983. (FHL book 977.6 A3b supp.; computer number 487063.) The original bibliography and this supplement are arranged by subjects. There is an index to authors and subjects but not to titles.

For other information, see the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MINNESOTA – [COUNTY], HISTORY
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] – HISTORY

LAND AND PROPERTY

The availability of land attracted many immigrants to America and encouraged westward expansion. Land ownership was generally recorded in an area as soon as settlers began to arrive. Land records are primarily used to learn where an individual lived and when he lived there. They often reveal other family information, such as the name of a spouse, heir, other relatives, or neighbors. You may learn where a person lived previously, his occupation, if he had served in the military, if he was a naturalized citizen, and other clues. Sale of the land may show when he left and to where he was moving.

Minnesota was a public-domain state where unclaimed land was surveyed, then granted or sold by the government through federal and state land offices. Later when the land was sold or mortgaged by private owners, the transactions were recorded at the office of the county register of deeds. Family history researchers usually use land records from county offices. Records from federal and state offices can also have genealogical value. For detailed descriptions of land record types see *United States Research Outline* (30972).

Surveys

Minnesota uses the rectangular land survey system (section, township, and range). Two different surveys were done resulting in two number sequences. Land east of the Mississippi River was part of the Northwest Territory. Townships in that

area of Minnesota are numbered between 22 and 70 north of the (Galena, Illinois) base line. Ranges run east or west of the 4th principal meridian.

Land west of the Mississippi River was part the Louisiana Purchase. Townships in that area are numbered between 101 and 164 north of the (Clarendon, Arkansas) base line. Ranges are counted west from the 5th principal meridian. Maps showing these surveys are included in:

Andriot, Jay. *Township Atlas of the United* States. McLean, Va.: Documents Index, 1991. (FHL book 973 E7an 1991; computer number 628895.) This book is arranged alphabetically by state. Pages 297–320 contain township maps of Minnesota.

Federal Land Offices

The first General Land Office covering Minnesota was established in Wisconsin in 1848 and was transferred in 1849 to Stillwater, Minnesota. There were eventually as many as 11 land districts within the state: Alexandria, Cass Lake, Crookston, Duluth, Minneapolis, Ojibway (no records exist for this district), Red Wing, Root River, St. Cloud, Stillwater, and Winona. District names and boundaries changed considerably through the years as offices opened and closed and land was transferred from one district to another: the 11 districts had a total of 34 names. By 1908 only three land offices remained. They were located in Cass Lake, Crookston, and Duluth. Records from all other offices had been transferred to Duluth. The Crookston and Duluth offices were closed in 1925. The public domain in Minnesota was declared closed to settlement in 1930, and the land office at Cass Lake was discontinued in 1933.

Federal Land Grants

The earliest land sales in Minnesota were in 1848, when land in the St. Paul area was sold at a land office in St. Croix Falls. However, the first major land boom was 1854–57, when more than 5.25 million acres of public lands were sold. In 1854 Wisconsin settlers were allowed to claim unsurveyed land. Thousands of acres were also transferred to holders of military bounty land warrants. These warrants were originally granted to veterans of the Mexican War of 1848, but most warrants had been sold by the veterans to other individuals, including land speculators.

The first federal homestead act was passed in 1862. Between 1863 and 1865 Minnesota settlers registered 9,500 entries for free land. Individuals could also buy land cheaply from the railroads. By 1908 most of the land rush was over, and only the three federal land offices mentioned above were still in operation.

After land had been surveyed, the survey was recorded in township plat books. These usually contained a drawing of the township, noting major geographical features such as waterways. Other federal records include the tract books, patents, and case files described below.

Copies of the federal records were sent to the Minnesota Historical Society. Most Minnesota federal land records are also in the Bureau of Land Management's Eastern States office in Springfield, Virginia.

Microfilm copies of the tract books and township plats of the Minnesota land offices are at the Family History Library and at:

Minnesota Historical Society Research Center
345 Kellogg Blvd. W.
St Paul MN 55102-1906
Telephone: 651-296-2143
Fax: 651-297-7436

The actual patents are at:

Bureau of Land Managment Eastern States Office
7450 Boston Blvd
Springfield VA 22153
Telephone: 703-440-1523
Fax: 703-440-1599
Internet: www.glorecords.blm.gov/

Indexes. When federal land was finally transferred to private individuals, it was said to be *patented.* Some land patents, certificates, and other land documents for Minnesota have been indexed on one compact disc:

United States. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. *Minnesota, 1820–1908: Cash and Homestead Entries.* Springfield, Va.: BLM Eastern States, 1995. (FHL compact disc Series 1313 no. 39; computer number 785091.) This does not circulate to Family History Centers. These records are patents issued by the federal government. Researchers can search for land title information through any one of six categories: land description, patentee name, patent authority, land office, certificate number, or county.

Basically the same index is included in:

Land Records: AL, AR, FL, LA, MI, MN, OH, WI. [Novato, Calif.]: Brøderbund Software, Family Tree Maker, 1996. (FHL Compact disc no. 9 pt. 255; computer number 793054).

Other indexes to Minnesota federal land records are not arranged alphabetically but geographically by section, township, and range. Some federal land records of Minnesota are indexed in:

United States. Bureau of Land Management. *Card Files*. Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Land Management, 19—. (On 160 FHL films, Minnesota cards are on films 1501675 and 1501676; computer number 547365.) Use these to find the land office name and certificate numbers. Cards mainly cover cash purchases during the 1850s and 1860s. Each card includes a certificate number; the name of an assignor; the legal description of the land by section, township, and range; a date of patent; and a warrant book volume and page number. In a few cases, the cards include names of entire families as assignors.

Most of the names listed in the card files do not appear to be duplicated in the compact disc patent index listed above or in the tract books described below. Certificate numbers referenced in the card files do appear in the tract books, although most often the names of persons listed on the cards do not.

Tract books are more complete than the card files and also serve as indexes to the case files. They are arranged geographically by township and range, so you have to have some idea of the legal description of the land where your ancestor lived to be able to use them. Some legal land descriptions are included in county records. The Minnesota Historical Society Library has many county maps, land atlases, and plat books that show townships and ranges. A few of these are at the Family History Library. Tract books for Minnesota are at the Family History Library. They are part of a larger collection called:

United States. Bureau of Land Management. *Tract Books.* Washington D.C.: Records Improvement, Bureau of Land Management, 1957. (The FHL films for Minnesota are 1445629–76; computer number 473821). Use the Author/Title Search of the microfiche catalog to find film numbers. The tract books devote a page or so to each land section in a township. They list the name of the first owner of each quarter section or the certificate number or both.

Records about individual pieces of land in each township were collected in land-entry case files. Case files may include personal or family information, such as military discharge papers and naturalization certificates. Case files are not at the Family History Library, but must be ordered from:

Old Military & Civil Records Branch
National Archives and Records Administration
7th and Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington DC 20408
Telephone: 202-501-5395
Fax: 202-219-6273

To obtain a case file, you must provide a complete legal land description and the name of the state, land office, type of certificate, certificate number, and name of ancestor. Do not send money; you will be billed.

State Land Office and Records

A State Land Office was established in 1862. It administered and sold trust fund lands that had been set aside to support public schools and the state university. It also received land grants from the federal government to transmit to the railroads. Records from the State Land Office are at the Minnesota Historical Society. They are described in:

Kinney, Gregory, and Lydia Lucas. *A Guide to the Records of Minnesota's Public Land.* St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Historical Society, Division of Archives and Manuscripts, 1985. (FHL book 977.6 R2k; microfilm 1698227 item 11; computer number 487052.) In addition to describing land records, this guide contains brief histories of the state and federal agencies that created the records.

Additional indexes, printed sources, and records of original transfers of land from federal and state governments are found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MINNESOTA - LAND AND PROPERTY
UNITED STATES - LAND AND PROPERTY

County Records

After land was transferred to private ownership, subsequent land sales and mortgages were usually recorded in the register of deeds office in each county. Original documents were retained by the families, while copies of deeds, mortgages, and leases were kept by the registrar of deeds. Abstracts and indexes for these records are generally available at the county courthouse. Registrars of deeds are now know as *county recorders.* The Family History Library is continuing to acquire microfilm copies of these records and their indexes from the southern and eastern counties.

Land records for Minnesota are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MINNESOTA – LAND AND PROPERTY
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – LAND AND PROPERTY

MAPS

The Wilson Library of the University of Minnesota has the most complete collection of maps for the state. Their web address is:

"Map Collections in the Wilson Library" [Internet site] Minneapolis, Minn.: University of Minnesota, 2000 [cited 27 January 2000]. Available at: www.lib.umn.edu/wilsonlib/maps.html.

The Minnesota Historical Society Library also has an extensive map collection, and the Family History Library has a few maps that can aid your research. Two atlases, *An Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Minnesota* and Bakeman's *A Comprehensive Index to A. T. Andreas' Illustrated Historical Atlas of Minnesota—1874*, are both cited in the "Biography" section of this outline.

A bibliography of available county atlases is in:

Treude, Mai. *Windows to the Past: A Bibliography of Minnesota County Atlases.* Minneapolis, Minn.: University of Minnesota Press, 1980. (FHL book 977.6 E73t; computer number 112353.) It indicates whether copies of individual atlases are at the Library of Congress or at archives or libraries in Minnesota.

A guide to the history of Minnesota's counties and boundary changes has also been published:

Long, John H., ed. *Historical Atlas and Chronology of County Boundaries 1788–1980. Volume 5: Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota.* Boston, Mass.: G. K. Hall, 1984. (FHL book 973 E7hL v. 5; fiche 6051430 [set of six]; computer number 304297.) Shows when and where each county changed boundaries.

The *United States Research Outline* (30972) describes additional sources containing maps of Minnesota. Maps are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MINNESOTA – MAPS
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – MAPS
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] – MAPS

MILITARY RECORDS

Military records identify millions of individuals who served in the military or who were eligible for service. Evidence that an ancestor actually served may be found in family traditions (or legends), census records, naturalization records, biographies, cemetery records, and records of veterans' organizations.

Many military records are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives, the Minnesota Historical Society, and other federal and state archives. The *U.S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118) provides more information on federal military records and search strategies.

Mexican War (1846–1848)

Although Minnesota did not exist as a state during the time of the Mexican War, men who served in that war were eligible for military bounty land in Minnesota. (See the "Land and Property" section of this outline.)

Civil War (1861–1865)

Minnesota was a relatively new state with a small population at the time of the Civil War, but it contributed a substantial number of troops to the Union forces during the war. About 22,000 Minnesotans served; 2,500 died in the war. An article with suggestions and sources for researching a Civil War ancestor in Minnesota is:

Baker, Mary Hawker. "Tracing Civil War Ancestors in Minnesota." *Minnesota Genealogist* 28 (fall 1997): 98–100. St. Paul, Minn.: The Society. (FHL book 977.6 B2mg; computer number 209015.)

Names of most of those who served are included in:

Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars, 1861–1865. 2 vols. St. Paul, Minn.: Pioneer Press, 1890–93. (FHL book 977.6 H2bc; vol. 1 on film 1036220 item 6; vol. 2 on film 1033917 item 2 and fiche 6046730 [fiche 11–18]; computer number 170087.)

Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars, 1861–1865. 2d ed. 2 vols. St. Paul, Minn.: Pioneer Press, 1891. (FHL book 977.6 H2bc 1891; film 1033917; fiche 6046730 [set of 10]; computer number 68255.) Volume 1 includes the history of each regiment and regimental rosters listing soldiers' names, ages, dates of service, and remarks about their service, including whether transferred, wounded, captured, or killed. Volume 2 consists of correspondence and battle reports, arranged chronologically. Indexes at the end of each volume list only some officers and major events. A more complete index to both volumes is at the Minnesota Historical Society.

Minnesota Adjutant General's Report of 1866. Roseville, Minn.: Park Genealogical Books, 1997. (FHL book 977.6; computer number 0816204.) The report lists 26,088 names of men who served during the Civil War period, including citizen soldiers who served in local militias. It gives name, age, state or country of birth, dates of service, and remarks, and is arranged alphabetically. Family history researchers should look at both.

The index to the federal service records of Union volunteers from Minnesota is:

United States. Adjutant General's Office. *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Minnesota.* National Archives Microfilm Publication M0546. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, [1965?]. (On 10 FHL films beginning with 821930; computer number 280590.)

The index to Union pension records for all states is described in the *U.S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118).

Names and residences of some persons receiving federal pensions can be found in:

List of Pensioners on the Roll, January 1, 1883: . . . as Called for by Senate Resolution of December 8, 1882. Vol. 4. 1883. Reprint. Arvada, Colo.: Ancestor Publishers, 1990. (FHL fiche 6334560; computer number 686823.) No circulation to Family History Centers. The list includes more than 4,000 names of Civil War or War of 1812 veterans or the name their widow. Arranged by county names in alphabetical order, then by post office addresses in alphabetical order; persons' names are not in any particular order. Information includes the pensioner's name, post office address, reason for pension, amount of money received each month, and date the pension was originally awarded. Unindexed.

Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). In 1890, about 40 percent of the Civil War veterans were members of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). The descriptive books of each GAR post usually indicate each member's name, age, rank, birthplace, residence, occupation, and enlistment and discharge information. The descriptive books and other records of many GAR posts are at the Minnesota Historical Society.

Unit Histories. An important inventory for finding Civil War military histories in Minnesota is:

Civil War Unit Histories: The Union—Midwest and West. (Part 4.) Bethesda, Md.: University Publications of America, 1993. (FHL book 973 M2cwu pt. 4; computer number 715369.) The library has the large microfiche collection described in this guide. Use the library catalog to find individual items. This may include correspondence, diaries, memoirs, and regimental histories published before 1920. The guide shows the unit name, counties where it was raised, author, title, publication information, number of pages, and source repository. This guide also includes an author index and a major engagements index.

Soldiers Home Records. Records of the state operated soldiers home in Minneapolis are found in the Minnesota State Historical Society Library. They include resident admission and discharge records, history of residents' military service, and clinical records.

Dakota Conflict (Sioux Uprising, 1862)

The Dakota Conflict, sometimes called the Sioux Uprising or Sioux War of 1862, erupted in Minnesota during the Civil War. Driven by hunger and broken promises, some Dakota Indians attacked settlements in the Minnesota River Valley in mid-August 1862. Although not long, the Dakota Conflict claimed the lives of hundreds of Dakota people and white settlers. The unrest that persisted following the conflict caused many Dakota Indians to flee to the Dakota Territory or to Canada.

Records of troops in federal service who took part in the Dakota Conflict are included with Civil War records. Names of those who served with local militia units are included as an appendix to *Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars, 1861–1865,* volume 1, described above. Names of more than 200 white settlers and many Indians who died in the Dakota Conflict are included in:

Satterlee, Marion P. *A Detailed Account of the Massacre by the Dakota Indians in 1862: with Names of all Victims [and a] Complete List of Indians Killed in Battle. . . .* Minneapolis, Minn.: M. P. Satterlee, [1923]. (FHL film 1671601 item 7; computer number 596415.)

Spanish-American War (1898) and Philippine Insurrection (1899–1902)

Minnesota raised four volunteer regiments for service in the Spanish-American War. About 5,000 men served with those regiments. Four Minnesota soldiers were killed in action; more than 80 died of disease. Minnesota was one of a few states that also provided volunteers during the Philippine Insurrection. Rosters of those who served in both conflicts are included in:

Holbrook, Franklin F. *Minnesota in the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection.* St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota War Records Commission, 1923. (FHL film 1654701; computer number 118397.) Includes brief regimental histories of the Minnesota volunteer units, followed by rosters of Minnesotans who served between 1898 and 1902 in those units and in other branches of service—more than 8,000 names. Information includes name, age, birthplace, residence, regiment, and dates mustered in and out. Includes an index to names in the rosters and a general index.

Names of those who filed for pensions based on service in these two conflicts are included in the *General Index to Pension Files, 1861–1934,* described in the *U.S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118).

World War I (1917–1918)

World War I draft registration cards for men ages 18 to 45 may list address, birth date, birthplace, race, nationality, citizenship, and next of kin. Not all registrants served in the war. For registration cards for Minnesota, see:

United States. Selective Service System. *Minnesota, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918.* National Archives Microfilm Publication M1509. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1987–1988. (On 94 FHL films beginning with 1675275; computer number 756748.)

To find an individual's draft card, it helps to know his name and residence at the time of registration. The cards are arranged alphabetically by county, within the county by draft board, and then alphabetically by surname within each draft board.

Most counties had only one board, large cities had several. Maps showing the boundaries of individual draft boards in Minneapolis and St. Paul are included in:

United States. Selective Service System. *List of World War One Draft Board Maps.* Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 19—. (FHL film 1498803; computer number 702779.)

Finding an ancestor's street address in a city directory will help you in using the draft board map. See the "Directories" section of this outline.

Haller's Army. During World War I, the Polish Army in France, commonly called Haller's Army, recruited about 20,000 soldiers from among Poles living in the United States. Two forms that contain genealogical information were filled out by the recruits. Form A contains each volunteer's name, address, marital status, number of children, how his family would be supported if he was accepted into service, whether volunteer was an American citizen, his age, physical description, signature, recruiting station, and the date. Form C contains additional information such as the volunteer's birth date and place, the addresses of his closest relative in America and of his closest relative in Poland, his previous military service, and remarks. All volumes of the collection are available through:

PGS of America
ATTN: Haller's Army Request
984 N. Milwaukee Ave
Chicago, IL 60622

A name index is on the Internet at:

"Haller's Army Index." In Polish Genealogical Society of America [Internet site]. [Chicago: PGSA], 1998 [cited 17 July 1999]. Available at: www.pgsa.org/haller.htm. You can search by surname and first name. The index shows the volunteer's surname and given name, the town and state where he volunteered, his form (Form A or C described above, or L [loose papers]), and page number.

A microfilm copy of the Form A records only is:

United States (with Some from Ontario, Canada) Recruits for the Polish Army in France, 1917–1919: States Represented most Frequently are New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Connecticut, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Delaware, Nebraska & Kansas (for Complete Breakdown See Film Inventory). Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1995. (On 11 FHL films beginning with 1993525; computer number 771935.) The forms are in Polish, but at the beginning of each film is a blank form printed in English. The records are not organized by locality, and Minnesota recruits are represented on almost every film. There is, however, an alphabetical list of volunteers for each item.

World War II (1941–1945)

Lists of dead and missing soldiers who served during World War II, arranged alphabetically by county, are in:

Minnesota's World War II Army Dead. Brooklyn Park, Minn.: Park Genealogical Books, 1994. (FHL book 977.6 A1 no. 135; computer number

744332.) It includes 6,462 names and indicates the soldier's rank and cause of death.

Other Records

The Minnesota Historical Society Library has a collection on 88 rolls of microfilm of military service record cards for Minnesotans entering federal service from the state militia or National Guard. These cover conflicts from the Civil War through World War I, including the Spanish-American War. These cards are arranged by war and branch of service, then alphabetically by soldier's family name. They give name, age or date of birth, sometimes birthplace, and dates and places of service. The microfilms can be used through the interlibrary loan service of your public library. For film numbers, contact the Minnesota Historical Society Library.

The Minnesota Historical Society has a number of other military records, including a few muster rolls dating from the late 1800s for state militia and National Guard units. The Society also has copies of more than half the original induction records of the 60,000 Minnesota men drafted into service in World War I, records of World War I veterans who applied for bonuses, records of the Minnesota Veterans Home in Minneapolis, established in 1887, and some records from veterans' organizations. For descriptions of these and other records, see *Genealogical Resources of the Minnesota Historical Society: A Guide* cited in the "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline.

Information may also be obtained from Fort Snelling National Cemetery (7601 34th Ave. South, Fort Snelling MN 55111, telephone 612-726-1127). Veterans from the Civil War through recent conflicts are buried at the Fort Snelling cemetery. Minneapolis also has a national cemetery and an office of the Veterans Administration.

Other useful military records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MINNESOTA – MILITARY RECORDS
MINNESOTA – MILITARY HISTORY
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – MILITARY RECORDS

MINORITIES

The largest ethnic groups in Minnesota are Germans, Swedes, and Norwegians. By 1880 the foreign-born population in Minnesota included nearly 108,000 Scandinavians, many of whom were Norwegians; 66,000 Germans; and about 39,000 British, most of whom were Irish. Nearly 30,000 Minnesotans had come from Canada, most of whom were British and French Canadians. There were nearly 8,000 Bohemians (mostly Czechs) and 1,000 or 2,000 each from Switzerland, Poland, Russia, and France. There were also Mennonite Germans from Russia and some Jews from Germany. Jews from eastern Europe came later. More than 2,000 American Indians still resided in Minnesota and nearly 1,500 African Americans.

From 1890 to 1920 job opportunities in Minnesota's cities attracted immigrants from central and southern Europe, including Russian Jews, Slavs, Italians, and Greeks. Large numbers of Finns began to arrive, and Germans and Scandinavians continued to come. The decade of the greatest Norwegian immigration was 1900–10. Significant numbers of Mexican Americans arrived in the 1930s, and refugees from southeast Asia in the 1970s.

Many books have been published about Minnesota's people. For example:

Holmquist, June Drenning. *They Chose Minnesota: A Survey of the State's Ethnic Groups.* St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Historical Society, 1981. (FHL book 977.6 F2t; computer number 138439.) This 641-page book includes chapters on more than 60 ethnic groups, with reasons for each group's immigration, its settlement patterns, religious practices, and social customs. Notes at the end of each chapter give sources for further study.

Scandinavians

Ulvestad, Martin. *Nordmœndene i Amerika: deres Historie og Rekord.* (Norwegians in America: Their History and Record.) Minneapolis, Minn.: History Book Company's Forlag, 1907. (FHL book 973 F2u; film 896612; computer number 269168.) In Norwegian. This includes a long chapter on Norwegian settlement in Minnesota, with names of some of the first Norwegian settlers in each county. It also includes lists of immigrant Norwegian county officers in Minnesota with their home towns in Norway; some immigrants who served in Civil War regiments; and villages in Norway with names of some emigrants and their places of settlement in North America. It is especially valuable for those who came before 1867, when lists began to be kept of emigrants leaving Norway.

Ulvestad, Martin, ed. *Norge i Amerika med Kart.* (Norway in America With Map). Minneapolis, Minn.: Norge i Amerika Publishing, 1901. (FHL book 973 F2nu; computer number 269164.) In Norwegian. This is a directory of thousands of Norwegians in North America about 1901.

United States and Canadian cities are arranged in alphabetical order, with names and professions of immigrants. Most of the communities are in the midwestern states, including many in Minnesota. An included map shows the location of major Norwegian settlements in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and North and South Dakota.

Norwegian-American Historical Association (NAHA) [Internet site]. Northfield, Minn.: NAHA, 1999 [cited 16 Nov 1999]. Their Internet site is available at www.naha.stolaf.edu/. The goal of the organization is to locate, collect, preserve, and interpret Norwegian-American history.

Strand, Algot E. *A History of the Swedish-Americans of Minnesota: a Concise Record of the Struggles and Achievements of the Early Settlers. . .* 1910. Reprint. N.p. Available from Higginson Book Company, Salem, Massachusetts. (FHL book 977.6 H2s; film 1698188 ; computer number 738883.) This three-volume set contains brief biographical and historical information on early Swedish settlers of Minnesota counties and longer biographies of prominent Swedish Americans who were living in Minnesota in 1910. Name index at the beginning of volume 1.

Jews

Plaut, W. Gunther. *The Jews in Minnesota: The First Seventy-Five Years.* New York: American Jewish Historical Society, 1959. (FHL book 977.6 F2p; computer number 249877.) This history includes appendixes listing Jewish physicians in Minnesota before 1900 and some Minnesota Jews who served in the Civil War and World War I.

Other records and histories of ethnic, racial, and religious groups in Minnesota are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MINNESOTA – MINORITIES

Also see the "Minorities" section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972) and the "Emigration and Immigration" and "Periodicals" section of this outline.

NATIVE RACES

Two major Native American tribes—the Dakota (or Sioux) and the Ojibwa (Anishinabe or Chippewa)—lived in the area that is now Minnesota. Small groups from other tribes now also reside in the state, including the Winnebago, who once had reservation land there. By the late 1860s treaties had pushed the Indians off lands they had occupied onto reservations.

Many American Indians still live on reservations in Minnesota. Seven Ojibwa reservations are located in the northern part of the state, and four Dakota communities occupy lands in the southern part. Other American Indians reside in urban areas. More than 9,000 people of Ojibwa ancestry live in Minneapolis, and about 3,000 Ojibwa, Dakota, and Winnebago are in St. Paul. There are smaller groups of American Indian people in Duluth and Bemidji.

The Family History Library has many American Indian records from the National Archives–Central Plains Region (Kansas City). For the Ojibwa, for instance, microfilms of census, vital, land, and family records are available from 1876 to 1955. Additional sources are at the Minnesota Historical Society Library, including:

Powell, Ransom Judd. *Papers, Undated and 1843, 1896–1938.* St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Historical Society, 1987. (FHL films 1550598–612; computer number 500524.) No circulation to Family History Centers. Papers include genealogies, censuses, correspondence, and other records collected by the lawyer for lumber companies that bought White Earth Reservation land.

A research study of one Ojibwa family from Minnesota's White Earth reservation is in:

Byers, Paula K., ed. *Native American Genealogical Sourcebook.* Detroit, Mich.: Gale Research, 1995. (FHL book 970.1 B991n; computer number 743430.) It includes chapters on historical background, research methods and sources, and libraries and archives holding genealogical information on American Indians. The case study reported on pages 54–64 uses records mostly dating between 1885 and 1915 to trace ancestors and descendants of one Ojibwa family. Records used include Indian censuses, United States censuses, Chippewa Commission and Chippewa Agency records, and the Ransom Judd Powell papers. A bibliography of sources for further study on Minnesota Indians is provided.

Other books include:

Ebbott, Elizabeth. *Indians in Minnesota.* 4th ed. Minneapolis, Minn.: University of Minnesota Press, 1985. (FHL book 970.1 Eb17i; computer number 397923.) Sponsored by the League of

Women Voters of Minnesota, this book deals mainly with social strengths and economic problems of American Indians in modern-day Minnesota. Preliminary chapters give histories of major Indian groups in the state and shifting government policies toward them. Includes maps and tables showing the locations of Indian groups on and off reservations in 1980.

Minnesota Historical Society (St. Paul, Minnesota). *Chippewa and Dakota Indians: A Subject Catalog of Books, Pamphlets, Periodical Articles, and Manuscripts in the Minnesota Historical Society*. St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Historical Society, 1969. (FHL book 970.1 M666c; computer number 213871.) A list of printed and manuscript sources on Minnesota's two major tribes. Much new material has been added to the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society since this book was published.

See also the chapter on "The Dakota and Ojibwa" in *They Chose Minnesota*, described in the "Minorities" section of this outline. For sources on the Sioux War of 1862, see the "Military Records" section of this outline. Steps to effective research are listed in the "Native Races" section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972).

Records of the various tribes can be found by looking under the name of the tribe in the Subject Search of the Family History Library Catalog and under "Indians of North America – Minnesota." Many of the records are also listed in the Locality Search of the catalog under:

MINNESOTA – NATIVE RACES

NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Naturalization is the process of granting citizenship privileges and responsibilities to foreign-born residents. Naturalization papers are an important source of information about an immigrant's place of origin, foreign and Americanized names, residence, and date of arrival.

Immigrants to the United States have never been required to apply for citizenship. Of those who applied, many did not complete the requirements for citizenship. Evidence that an immigrant completed citizenship requirements can be found in censuses, court minutes, homestead records, passports, voting registers, and military papers.

Various types of records were created during the naturalization process, including declarations of intention, petitions for naturalization, oaths of allegiance, and certificates of citizenship. Each record can give details such as a person's age, residence, place of origin, date and port of arrival, name of the ship, spouse, children, and current address. Naturalization records in Minnesota made before 1906 have no general index, although individual volumes from some courts may be indexed.

Applications for citizenship are essential records to search in a state with so many immigrants. Even if an immigrant ancestor did not complete the process and become a citizen, he or she may have filed an application. These application records still exist and can be very helpful. See the *United States Research Outline* (30972) for a more complete discussion of the naturalization process and the records created.

Naturalization records have been filed in the United States Circuit and District Courts, in the Minnesota Supreme Court, and in the county district courts in Minnesota. An index to Minnesota Supreme Court records is in:

Pope, Wiley R. *Minnesota Genealogical Index.* St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Family Trees, 1984. (FHL book 973 D22p; computer number 426038.) About 7,000 names of the 87,000 names in this index appear to be from naturalization by the Minnesota Supreme Court, books A–M, 1858–1910. The index lists volume, page number, and year of application. Some of the records are missing, but the surviving records are at the Minnesota Historical Society Library.

Federal Courts

Subject to privacy restrictions, you can request a search of a nationwide index and records for 1906–56 from:

FOIA Office, Immigration and Naturalization Service
Department of Justice
425 "I" Street NW
Washington, DC 20536

The Family History Library has naturalization records to 1911 or later for most federal circuit courts and district courts in Minnesota. Federal courts existed in cities such as Minneapolis, St. Paul, Fergus Falls, Mankato, and Winona.

Naturalization records from the United States circuit and district courts held at Duluth are found in:

National Archives–Great Lakes Region (Chicago)
7558 South Pulaski Road
Chicago IL 60629

Telephone: 773-581-7816
Fax: 312-886-7883

County Courts

The Family History Library has records to 1906 or later for county district courts in six or seven counties. Naturalization records from district courts in all of Minnesota's remaining counties have been transferred to the Minnesota Historical Society Library. As records are microfilmed there, the films become available from the Minnesota Historical Society through interlibrary loan to public libraries.

Published indexes to naturalization records of more than 45 Minnesota counties have been issued by the Range Genealogical Society. Most are available at the Minnesota Historical Society Library. Contact the Iron Range Research Center listed in the "Biography" section of this outline for more information.

See the *United States Research Outline* (30972) for more information about the naturalization process and about naturalization and citizenship records.

Naturalization and citizenship records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MINNESOTA – NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY, [TOWN] – NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

NEWSPAPERS

Newspapers publish notices of marriage, divorce, death, funerals, obituaries, and wartime casualty lists. Notices include names of the persons involved, the date of the event, and may contain maiden names, names of parents, and other relatives.

Newspapers also publish articles of local interest, including religious and social events, with the names of those involved. Some newspapers devote columns to the everyday happenings in the area. Newspapers also include legal notices, estate sales, and advertising for local businesses.

The first newspapers in Minnesota were published in 1849. The best collection of Minnesota newspapers is at the Minnesota Historical Society Library, which attempts to collect and microfilm all Minnesota newspapers. Many of these records may be loaned to other libraries. Some of the library's 4,000 different newspapers are especially valuable because they are published by ethnic and religious groups.

Inventory on the Internet

Over 4,287 Minnesota newspaper titles containing 4.1 million pages on microfilm are cataloged in the Minnesota Newspaper Project. You can learn what newspapers were published in any Minnesota city on the WebPals Internet site described in the "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline. The Internet address to identify newspapers is:

"Newspapers Listed in the PALS Online Catalog." In Minnesota Historical Society [Internet site]. St. Paul, Minn.: MHS, 1998 [cited 12 January 2000]. Available at: www.mnhs.org/library/search/news.html. Describes over 3 million issues of over 5,000 newspapers published in Minnesota since 1849. Microfilm copies of newspapers can be requested through interlibrary loan.

Online newspaper searches are available at:

"AskRon Newspaper Database" In Minnesota Historical Society [Internet site]. St. Paul, Minn.: MHS, 1998 [cited 12 January 2000]. Available at: www.209.98.63.170/arsearch. You can search on a keyword, newspaper title, state, Minnesota county, or range of dates. For more information, call 651-296-2143.

Published Inventories

For a listing of newspapers at the Minnesota Historical Society Library see:

Minnesota Historical Society Holdings of Newspapers on Master Negative Microfilm: February 1987. St. Paul, Minn.: MHS, 1987. (FHL film 1490151; computer number 489910.) The films do not circulate to Family History Centers. Newspapers are listed alphabetically by town or city, name of newspaper, beginning and ending dates, number or microfilm rolls, and whether it is available for purchase. Other states and countries are listed at the end.

The Family History Library acquires obituaries, indexes, and other newspaper abstracts. A guide to early Minnesota newspapers is:

Hage, George Sigrud. *Newspapers on the Minnesota Frontier, 1849–1860*. St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Historical Society, 1967. (FHL book 977.6 B3m; computer number 249133.) This book contains a historical study and list of

newspapers from 1849 to 1860, when the telegraph reached Minnesota.

To find newspapers check the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MINNESOTA – NEWSPAPERS
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – NEWSPAPERS
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] – NEWSPAPERS

OBITUARIES

Obituaries provide information such as the age of the deceased; birth date and place, including foreign town and country of birth; parents; names and residences of living children; relatives and other family members; maiden name; and occupation. Deceased family members are also frequently mentioned. The obituary may indicate previous places of residence, immigration information, religious affiliation, and any social organizations or activities in which the deceased was involved.

The "Obituaries" and "Newspapers" sections of the *United States Research Outline* (30972) list sources for finding obituaries and the newspapers that publish them.

Various collections of obituaries for Minnesota have been compiled. For example:

Southwest State University (Minnesota). Southwest Minnesota Historical Center. *Obituary File Index, ca. 1873–1953*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1990. (FHL films 1728586–922; computer number 613941.) There is no list of the newspapers that were used to compile this index. Index gives name of deceased, death date and place, and other information.

Southwest State University (Minnesota). Southwest Minnesota Historical Center. *Obituary Files, ca. 1985-1990*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1990. (FHL films 1728922–28; computer number 613948.) The cards are in alphabetical order and have the original obituaries pasted on them. Obituaries come from miscellaneous newspapers of southwestern Minnesota.

To find obituaries and obituary indexes, check the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MINNESOTA – OBITUARIES
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – OBITUARIES
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY], [TOWN] – OBITUARIES

PERIODICALS

Most family history periodicals include copies of local sources of genealogical value. These may include genealogies, information about local records and archives, queries, census indexes, and transcripts of family Bibles, biographies, church records, court records, guardianships, naturalizations, deed abstracts, vital records, cemetery records, land records, military records, tax lists, mortality schedules, obituaries, and wills. Some genealogical periodicals and magazines for Minnesota research are:

Dahlquist, Alfred J., ed. *Minnesota Genealogical Journal*, 1984–1987, 1992–. Published by Park Genealogical Book, P.O. 130968, Roseville, MN 55113-0968. (FHL book 977.6 D25m; computer number 308809.) This contains extracts of early Minnesota newspapers, original records, and maps from state and county sources.

German Interest Group (series). [Newsletter] German Interest Group, a branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society. 1980–1992. (FHL book 977.6 F25n; computer number 546179.) In 1993 this society was renamed and started a new publication, *Germanic Genealogy Society (series)*. [Newsletter] (FHL book 977.6 F25n; computer number 739868.) This newsletter describes activities of the society, tips for research, sources of records, and case studies focused on German family research.

Minnesota Genealogist. 1970–. Published by the Minnesota Genealogical Society, 5768 Olson Memorial Highway, Golden Valley, MN 55422-5014. Telephone: 612-595-9347 (FHL book 977.6 B2mg; computer number 209015.) Includes cumulative indexes to 1988, and extracts of records, search strategies, case studies, and issues of interest to researchers in Minnesota records.

Minnesota History. 1915–. Published by the Minnesota Historical Society, 345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul, MN 55102-1906. (FHL book 977.6 H25m; computer number 26473.) There are three published indexes for this journal that are available from the Minnesota Historical Society: volumes 1–10 (1915–1929); volumes 11–40 (1930–1967); volumes 41–50 (1968–1987). This journal contains articles on social, political, economic, intellectual, and cultural history of Minnesota and surrounding areas.

Prairieland Pioneer. 1984–. Published by the Prairieland Genealogical Society, Southwest Minnesota Historical Center, Social Science 141, Marshall, MN 56258-1598. Telephone: 507-537-7373. (FHL book 977.6 D25pp; computer number 475603.) This journal contains extracts of records and helps for doing research in southwestern Minnesota. Under this same call number, there are two indexes: one for volumes 1–5, and one for volumes 6–10.

The Prairieland Register: Genealogical Records from Southwestern Minnesota. 1977–1983. Published by Prairieland Genealogical Society, 703 North Sixth Street, Marshall, MN 56258. (FHL book 977.6 D25pr; computer number 5779.) This journal contains extracts of records and helps for doing research in southwestern Minnesota.

Scandinavian Saga: A Newsletter for Members of the Scandinavian-American Genealogical Society, A Branch of the Minnesota Historical Society. 1979–, P.O. Box 16069, St. Paul, MN 55116-0069. (FHL book 977.6 F25s; computer number 510637.) The Family History Library has volume 10 (1989) to present. The newsletter describes activities of the society and contributions Scandinavians have made to their communities.

Indexes. Some of the periodicals listed above have annual surname indexes in the final issue for the year. For nationwide indexes to some of these and other family history periodicals, see the "Periodicals" section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972). Also see the following:

Finnell, Arthur Louis. *Minnesota Genealogical Periodical Index. A County Guide: Index to Periodicals through 1985*. 1980. Reprint. St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Genealogical Society, 1987. (FHL book 977.6 B22f 1985; computer number 499502). An index of county records published in six Minnesota periodicals through 1985.

Periodical Source Index (PERSI). 31+ vols. Ft. Wayne, Ind.: Allen County Public Library Foundation, 1986-. (FHL book 973 D25per 1847–1985; fiche 6016863 [set of 40] (1847–1985); computer number 444407; book 973 D25per (1986–1997); fiche 6016864 [set of 15] (1986–1990); computer number 658308.) This indexes over 1.1 million articles in over 5,000 English-language and French Canadian family history periodicals. For further instructions, see the *Periodical Source Index Resource Guide* (34119). For easier-to-use and more complete electronic editions of the index, see:

Periodical Source Index CD-ROM. Orem, Utah: Ancestry™, and the Allen County Public Library Foundation, 1997. (FHL compact disc no. 61; computer number 808087.) This disc does not circulate to Family History Centers. It merges all 31+ volumes into one index.

"Periodical Source Index Search." In Ancestry.com [Internet site]. [Orem, Utah]: Ancestry, 1999. Available at: www.ancestry.com/ancestry/search/3165.htm. This online database is available only to Ancestry.com members for a subscription fee.

For more family history periodicals, check the Family History Library Catalog Locality Search under:

MINNESOTA – PERIODICALS
MINNESOTA – GENEALOGY – PERIODICALS
MINNESOTA – SOCIETIES – PERIODICALS
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – PERIODICALS
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – GENEALOGY – PERIODICALS
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – SOCIETIES – PERIODICALS

PROBATE RECORDS

The court administrator of the district court in each county keeps the probate records, which include general indexes, case files, wills, order books, letters of administration, and probate registers. Case files or probate packets contain various documents, such as wills, inventories, receipts, and letters. Many counties have sent their older records to the State Archives Collection at the Minnesota Historical Society. The Family History Library is acquiring microfilm copies of these records on a county-by-county basis. An example is the files for Faribault County:

Minnesota. Probate Court (Faribault County). *Probate Case Files no. 1–2730, ca. 1857–1916; Index, ca. 1857–1990*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1990. (On 91 FHL films beginning with film 1710731; computer number 591453).

For more probate records, check the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – PROBATE RECORDS

SOCIETIES

For Minnesota genealogical and historical societies that have records and services to help you with your research, see the "Archives and Libraries," "Church Records," and "Periodicals" sections of this outline.

Two major statewide societies are the Minnesota Historical Society and the Minnesota Genealogical Society. The Minnesota Genealogical Society has several branch societies or interest groups relating to minorities. For address and full description, see the "Archives and Libraries" and "Periodicals" sections of this outline.

Many counties also have local historical and genealogical societies. You can find local society addresses by using directories cited in the "Societies" section of the *United States Research Outline* (30972).

Some societies generate unpublished indexes of local records, genealogies, cemetery transcriptions, and other records. Some may publish lists of members, yearbooks, ancestor lists, or surname indexes may be listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MINNESOTA – SOCIETIES
MINNESOTA – GENEALOGY – SOCIETIES
MINNESOTA – HISTORY – SOCIETIES
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – SOCIETIES
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – GENEALOGY – SOCIETIES
MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – HISTORY – SOCIETIES

TAXATION

The Minnesota Historical Society holds assessment rolls on taxable property and tax lists for nearly 50 counties. These records are filed under the respective county at the Minnesota Historical Society. Some tax records are arranged by townships or municipalities. No determination has been made concerning tax record holdings in the local county courthouses. The Family History Library has acquired few tax records for Minnesota. For records at the library, check the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – TAXATION

VITAL RECORDS

State Records of Births and Deaths

In Minnesota, the state registration of births began in 1900 and was generally complied with by 1915. Death records have been registered by the state since 1908.

For copies of state records, write to:

Minnesota Department of Health
Birth and Death Records
P.O. Box 9441
717 Delaware Street S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55440
Telephone: 612-623-5121
Fax: 612-331-5776
Internet: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/data/bd_1.htm

For an idea of fees for obtaining copies of the state's records, check:

"Vital Records Information Minnesota" [Internet site] N.p., 1999– [cited 26 October 1999]. Available at: www.vitalrec.com/mn.html. Shows state and county records office addresses, fees, and years covered.

County Records of Births and Deaths

Some counties began recording births as early as 1864 (Redwood County), but most counties began in 1870. Benton County death records were kept from 1867, but 1870 was the general starting date for most counties. Compliance was not good in the early years. The Family History Library has been acquiring microfilms of these county records from the earliest dates to about 1925. For examples, see the following:

Minnesota. District Court (Hennepin County). *Birth Records, 1870–1915*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1983. (On 5 FHL films beginning with 1309389; computer number 258276.)

Minnesota. Division of Vital Statistics. *Delayed Birth Records, ca. 1942–1981*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1982. (On 3 FHL films beginning with 1314525 item 4; computer number 32548.) Contains delayed birth records for Ramsey County and the city of St. Paul.

Mower County (Minnesota). County Recorder. *Death Records, 1870–1993; Index, 1870–1993*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1993. (On 26 FHL films beginning with 1902894; computer number 749415.)

For information about early county birth and death records, write to the court administrator of the district court or county recorder in the county.

County Records of Marriages

There is no centralized registration for Minnesota marriage records. The state has kept a statewide index to marriages from 1958 to present. Each county generally began keeping marriage records soon after the creation of the county. Some county marriage records begin in the late 1840s. The Family History Library has been acquiring microfilms of these records. For example, marriage records of Ramsey County (including St. Paul) are in:

Minnesota. District Court (Ramsey County). *Marriage Indexes, 1850–1917; Marriage Records, 1850–1916*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1982. (On 54 FHL films beginning with index film 1314520 item 3; computer number 160272.)

There is an index to many pre-1850 Minnesota marriage records on compact disc:

Marriage Records Early–1850. Orem, Utah: Automated Archives, 1992. (FHL compact disc no. 9, pt. 227, computer number 683380.) Although incomplete, this disc has many marriage records for various states west of the Mississippi.

There are also some Bureau of Indian Affairs marriage records on microfilm. An example is:

United States. Bureau of Indian Affairs. Red Lake Agency. *Marriage Licenses, 1902–1922*. Kansas City, Mo.: Federal Archives and Records Center, 1977. (FHL film 1204883 item 3; computer number 68411.)

For copies of marriage records, write to the district court administrator's office in the county in which the license was recorded. This office also has files for divorces. For information about Hennepin County marriages, write to:

Vital Records Office
Public Service Level Government Center
300 South 6th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55487

For other birth, death, and marriage records, check the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MINNESOTA, [COUNTY] – VITAL RECORDS

Divorce Records

Divorce and annulment records for each county are found with the civil cases of the district courts. The district courts have handled these cases since 1849.

You can write to the court administrator of the district court at the county courthouse for copies or information. For a listing of the courts see the "Court Records" section of this outline.

The Minnesota Department of Health has a divorce index from 1970 to the present.

FOR FURTHER READING

Eichholz, Alice, ed. *Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources*. Rev. ed. Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1992 (FHL book 973 D27rb 1992; computer number 594021.) Contains bibliographies and background information on history and ethnic groups. Also contains maps and tables showing when each county was created.

Pope, Wiley R. *Tracing Your Ancestors in Minnesota: A Guide to the Sources*. St. Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Family Trees, 1980–. (FHL book 977.6 D27p vols. 1–9 (2d ed.); vol. 1 (1st ed.) on film 1036406 item 13; vol. 2 also on film 1033840 item 5; computer number 37374.) The first volume contains general sources and suggestions for Minnesota research; additional volumes focus on the various regions of the state.

Lind, Marilyn. *Continuing Your Genealogical Research in Minnesota*, Cloquet, Minn.: The Linden Tree, 1986. (FHL book 977.6 D2L; computer number 424864). This book contains maps and information on history, migration, minorities, record, research centers, and county details.

Warren, Paula Stuart. *Minnesota Genealogical Reference Guide*. St. Paul, Minn.: Warren Research and Publishing, 1994. (FHL book 977.6 A1 no. 143; computer number 744333.) This book contains information about various record types found in Minnesota, lists of research repositories, genealogical societies, and research repositories beyond Minnesota, travel information. A third edition was published in 1997 (not at Family History Library) and a fourth edition with significant changes was scheduled for publication in 1998.

Warren, Paula Stuart. *Research in Minnesota*. Arlington, Va.: National Genealogical Society, 1992. (FHL book 977.6 A1 no. 112; computer number 294114.) This book contains a brief history of Minnesota and research aids to genealogy in Minnesota.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

The Family History Library welcomes additions and corrections that will improve future editions of this outline. Please send your suggestions to:

Publications Coordination
Family History Library
35 N. West Temple Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3400
USA

We appreciate the archivists, librarians, and others who have reviewed this outline and shared helpful information.

© 1988, 2000 by Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.
Printed in the USA

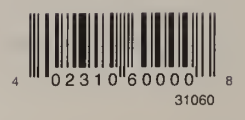
Third edition: February 2000

No part of this document may be reprinted, posted on-line, or reproduced in any form for any purpose without the prior written permission of the publisher. Send all requests for such permission to:

Copyrights and Permissions Coordinator
Family History Department
50 E. North Temple Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3400
USA
Fax: 1-801-240-2494

FamilySearch is a trademark of Intellectual Reserve, Inc.

31060



FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY
0301270
Utah Bookbinding Co SLC, UT 2/28/02 24

2/02